Consumers' Research BULLETIN

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CONSUMERS' RESEARCH

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Off the Editor's Chest

NOW that the stores and warehouses are once more overflowing with merchandise, the consumer is being offered all kinds of inducements to tempt him to buy. The OPA days of scarcity and restrictions seem like a dim, almost-forgotten nightmare. Despite the desperate attempts of OPA officials and others to hold on to rationing and other controls of consumption in order to direct the nation's economy closer to the goal of the "planned state," American consumers, long used to making their own choice as to how their dollars for products and services were to be spent, indicated so unmistakably that they would not tolerate government direction of their purchases once the war emergency was over that the OPA became a political liability, and as such was speedily dispensed with, as gracefully as possible.

Consumers' victory over the "social coercionists," as one lawyer has wisely characterized the 'planners," should not lull Americans into a false sense of security that the struggle is over. Those committed to the philosophy of social planning are known to distrust the consumer's ability to make his purchases to his own best advantage and to the end that certain social objectives may be achieved. In England, particularly, social planners have been quite frank in saying that the consumer should not be allowed to determine by his purchases what is to be manufactured and distributed, and in what quantity.

In this country, the intellectual kinsfolk of the OPA ideologists are currently attacking the consumer's methods of handling his hospital and doctor bills.

Paying for medical and hospital care is an expenditure that does not give consumers a sense of pleasure and well-being as does the purchase of a new automobile, a television set, or a fine steak. Although it is estimated that approximately 50 million people have some form of insurance prepayment plan for meeting medical and hospital bills, the majority apparently regard paying for *illness* as an unpleasant and unrewarding duty, something like buying rubbers. On a rainy day your feet are wet before you can get to the store to buy a pair, so why bother? When the rain is over you figure you won't need them right away. The lack of satisfaction secured from expenditures for medical and hospital services has undoubtedly led many people to look favorably upon or at least be willing to countenance some system of socialized medicine by which they would be forced to make regular payments to a government medical-insurance fund. The U. S. proponents of compulsory government medical care have skillfully disguised the compulsion aspect by referring to their program as "National Health Insurance," which puts their drive for control of the consumer's health expenditures in the best possible, though a wholly deceiving, light. Who could possibly object to the alleged goal of "better health" for the entire nation

(Continued on page 20)

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Symbols used to indicate sources of data and bases of ratings: **A**—recommended on basis of quality; **AA**—regarded as worthy of highest recommendation; **B**—intermediate with respect to quality; **C**—not recommended on basis of quality; cr—information from Consumers' Research's own tests or investigations; **1, 2, 3**—relative prices, **1** being low, **3** high. Note that price and quality are completely differentiated in CR's listings: **a quality judgment is independent of price**; 48, 49—year in which test was made or information obtained or organized by the staff of Consumers' Research.

It will be advantageous if you will, whenever possible, send prompt notice of change of address at least 5 weeks before it is to take effect, accompanying your notice with statement of your old address with name in full. At least a month's notice must be given in any case. This rule, however, regarding long advance notice does not apply to military personnel.

¶*CR will, of course, gladly change addresses for men and women in the services as often as required by changes in station and other circumstances.*

★★★For a brief cumulative index of 1949 BULLETINS preceding this issue, see page 26.

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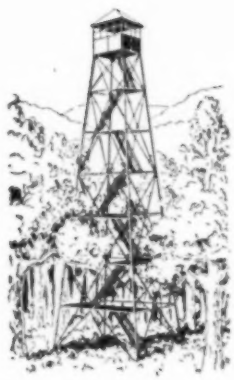
CORRECTIONS TO CONSUMERS' RESEARCH BULLETIN OF

SEPTEMBER 1949

Off the Editor's Chest p. 20, col. 1	The date of the issue of Hospital Management from which Mr. Kenneth C. Crain's article was reprinted was given incorrectly. The correct date is January 1949.



The Consumers' Observation Post

CONSUMERS in the states of Tennessee, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia who are accustomed to using natural gas for cooking are being called upon to share their supplies with a big customer, the atomic energy project at Oak Ridge, Tenn. The Atomic Energy Commission has decided to convert the uranium plant at Oak Ridge from coal to natural gas as a primary fuel supply. The decision, which was made after the Oak Ridge plant had experienced a severe shortage of coal during two coal strikes, is somewhat ironical in the light of the fact that one reported reason for present location of the plant was its proximity to big coal supplies. Several public utilities, a labor union, and a trade association are protesting the AEC's decision on the grounds that the switch will curtail supplies to consumers farther up the pipe line. The possibility of a future gas shortage is something for consumers in the states affected to take into account in making a decision whether to purchase a gas or an electric appliance.

* * *

MOTHERS ARE WARNED to be careful in opening glass baby food containers. Two cases of small children who became seriously ill after swallowing glass chips from such containers which had dropped into their food were reported by Dr. John D. Steele of Milwaukee in the Journal of the American Medical Association. In both cases the mothers had pried the lid off the jar and given the contents to the children before noticing that the rim of the container had been chipped. Careful inspection of the rim of a newly-opened baby food jar by mothers, advises Dr. Steele, should be routine procedure.

* * *

THE WEARING OF RIMLESS SPECTACLES involves a potential danger. They have been held to be a possible cause of skin cancer near the eyes, according to the findings of four physicians of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, in a study of 12 cases. The doctors point out that rimless spectacles focus certain light rays on the skin below the lower edge of the lens, and the rays cause the damage. One solution, they suggest, is to paint either the upper or lower rim of the spectacles with a lacquer known as "rim black." Those who do not mind the expense involved may prefer to shift to another type of spectacles. In the long run, glasses with frames will often be an economy, since lens breakage will occur less frequently when the edge of the lenses has some protection against impacts.

* * *

DETERIORATION IN THE QUALITY OF TEXTILES is held responsible for a recent increase in store complaints and return of merchandise. The blame is laid at the doorstep of textile finishers, garment manufacturers, and converters, according to a signed article in The New York Times. The charge is made that fabric-improvement processes such as Sanforized finishes, vat dyeing, and the use of inhibitors to prevent fading are being omitted in order to cut down costs. Other causes for consumers' complaints are improper preparation of wool fabrics to prevent excessive shrinkage when cleaned for the first time and lack of washing instructions for rayon garments.

* * *

MEAT IN THE REFRIGERATOR should always be stored unwrapped; otherwise it will spoil very rapidly. In New York City, butchers are displaying posters that carry the slogan "Meat Must Breathe." Meat, fish, and poultry, the butchers point out, should be taken from their papers before being placed in the refrigerator. The drying out which takes place curbs bacterial growth and retards spoiling. The best temperature for storage of meat is about 31° to 34°F.

THE PRICE SITUATION with respect to home appliances is "confused." That's the way the trade puts it. It also appears that the "25-percent-off" or cut-rate buying clubs have created a lack of confidence in price stability at all levels. Trade predictions are that appliance sales in 1949 will be something like 40 percent below those of last year. In a check of the appliance market by a New York Herald Tribune reporter, it appeared that the greatest demand was for six- and seven-foot refrigerators selling below $175, a four-burner gas range with "deluxe features" selling around $100, and a vacuum cleaner priced under $60. It has become quite apparent that consumers are sitting back waiting to be catered to instead of snapping up whatever makes its appearance on the dealer's shelves and floor display.

* * *

THAT INTANGIBLE SOMETHING in the flavor of fresh peas and corn, picked at just the right stage of maturity and cooked shortly after picking, represents more than just a pleasant taste. It appears that a higher glutamic acid content may be responsible for the superior flavor, according to a report to the Institute of Food Technologists by three researchers. Glutamic acid, which is one of the important amino acids, was found to be high in young corn, small green peas, and especially high in mushrooms. The study indicated that corn lost nearly half of its natural glutamic acid within a few hours after it was picked and peas lost about one-third of it in twenty-four hours. It was found that the glutamic acid was retained to a higher degree in stored foods if the vegetables were cooked first and then put in the refrigerator.

* * *

IS REXAIR a vacuum cleaner or a therapeutic device? In January 1948, CR reported a test of four vacuum cleaners which indicated that the dirt-removing ability of Rexair was below average and that its effectiveness as a dust filter did not appear significantly better than the other cleaners tested for which no special claims in this respect were made. On the basis of its performance in the test, CR found that Rexair warranted a C-Not-Recommended rating. After CR's report was issued, the company apparently felt it necessary to issue some kind of explanation to its salesmen, for some months later a subscriber sent us a two-page mimeographed release attacking CR's findings (quoted in part in "Off the Editor's Chest," CR Bulletin, April 1948) in which the chief rebuttal was that "The Rexair is a health unit first, last, and always . . . . Rexair IS NOT a vacuum cleaner by recommendation or otherwise." As we pointed out at the time, this classification of Rexair made it out to be a therapeutic device rather than a household appliance, and we thought that as such, its claims and directions for use would come under the jurisdiction of the Federal Food and Drug Administration. The wheels of the government grind slowly, but on June 29, 1949, we noted that a suit had been filed by the federal government asking seizure and confiscation, under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, of 94 devices labeled "Rexair Conditioner & Humidifier" and 10 booklets. The government charged that the devices were misbranded and that the booklets made false and misleading claims for benefits to be derived from the use of such devices. Perhaps the courts will be able to decide whether Rexair is or is not a vacuum cleaner. Consumers will await the verdict with interest.

* * *

ECONOMY NOTE: In buying phonograph records, keep in mind that the most music per dollar expended is furnished by the 78 rpm. records at the present time. This fact was brought to our attention by a subscriber, who wrote, "It is a point of note that with almost no hunting 78 rpm. records can be bought for fractions of the regular price down to one-quarter. Other speeds are not economical with these bargains available."

* * *

THE CANDY MANUFACTURERS are getting set for a big campaign to counteract what they refer to as "prejudices" of doctors, dentists, and nutritionists. Instead of telling people that candy is delicious, they will concentrate on the theme "candy has its rightful place in the diet." It appears that SOMETHING must be done, according to Tide magazine, in "direct retaliation" to such efforts as the American Dental Association's phonograph records for school children which use stars like Bing Crosby and Bob Hope to warn against soft drinks, candy, and other sweets. It is interesting to speculate on the pros-

(The continuation of this section is on page 29)

TWELVE 1949 REFRIGERATORS

THERE is a marked trend in refrigerator design to obtain the largest amount of storage space in a cabinet occupying the smallest practicable amount of kitchen space. *Philco*, for example, advertises "7 cu. ft. capacity in the floor space of a '4'." *Kelvinator* 8.6 cu. ft. boxes are claimed to require no larger floor space than former "sevens."

The cabinets of the models tested ranged in height from 54⅝ inches for the *Westinghouse* to 62 inches for the *Gibson* and *Frigidaire*; widths varied from 24¼ inches for the *Crosley* to 32 inches for the *Frigidaire*. It is important in deciding whether a given refrigerator will fit the space available, to allow room for good air circulation around the cabinet. Clearance should be at least 3 inches at each side and back and 10 inches above the cabinet.

"Cold-Wall" vs. Standard-Type Refrigerators

A *Frigidaire Cold-Wall* refrigerator-freezer combination was included in CR's tests to give data for comparison of this type of box with the standard type.

Instead of the customary evaporator located at the top of the box, the *Cold-Wall* has cooling coils which are concealed in the walls of the food storage compartments.

Because of the large cooling area, the interior walls of the *Cold-Wall* are only a few degrees colder than the air of the cabinet and consequently no frost collects on the cooling surfaces. Moisture does condense on the walls, whence it runs into a drain in the floor of the food compartment and from there to a drip pan in the machine compartment. (Other refrigerators previously tested by CR using the same general principle of refrigeration are the *General Electric Refrigerator-Home Freezer Combination* and the *Admiral Dual-Temp.*)

The separate freezer compartment requires defrosting from time to time, but Frigidaire claims indicate this is necessary only once or twice a year.

Advantages claimed for the *Cold-Wall* are: (1) that foods need not be covered, as the higher humidity in the box prevents their drying out; (2) elimination of the necessity for defrosting surfaces in the food compartment.

Tests disclosed that uncovered foods would stay fresh considerably longer than the same uncovered foods stored in a standard refrigerator, but it is doubtful whether this is important enough to warrant the approximate 75% extra cost of a "Cold-Wall" type refrigerator, since covering of foods in the refrigerator is normal practice and involves no particular trouble or inconvenience.

Test Methods

First, the refrigerators were allowed to stand in a heated room at 110°F for at least 24 hours with their doors open. Then the boxes were closed and the time and energy required to lower the temperatures to a stable value were determined, with the controls set to give an average temperature inside the boxes of 45°F. This gave a measure of the refrigerating capacity (adequacy of the refrigerating unit to handle its load) of each unit. There was considerable difference in the time required for the various boxes to pull the temperature down to 45° (see Table I). The *International Harvester* accomplished this in approximately 2 hours, but the *Philco* required 6½ hours. The *Servel* gas refrigerator in 12 hours could not lower the tempera-

Table I

Table showing time required for the various refrigerators to be "pulled down" in temperature from 110°F (room temperature, outside of box, and inside, at start) to 45°F.*

	Storage Capacity Cu. Ft.		Number of hours required to reduce temperature to 45°F in "pull-down" test.
	rated	actual	
International Harvester 8H1-49	8	7.6	2.05
Crosley Shelvador EA-7	7	6.9	2.60
Westinghouse S-7-49	7.0	6.8	2.60
Ward's DeLuxe 69-758R	7.5	7.7	2.80
Admiral Master 809	8.1	8.0	2.95
Norge R-849	8.4	8.6	3.00
Coldspot Spacemaster 46—4871	7.3	7.2	3.30
Kelvinator RS-R	8.6	8.6	3.35
Frigidaire Cold-Wall Imperial IL-80	8.0	8.0	3.80
Gibson A-819	8.0	7.7	3.95
Pilco D-793	7.2	7.1	6.50
Servel Gas W-700	6.5	6.5	12.00*

*Except in the case of the *Servel*, internal temperature of which, as explained in text, could not be reduced to 45°F in 12 hours.

ture below 52°F, which is a temperature that is too high for safe storage of foods.

After stable temperature conditions were reached, no-load performance data under steady conditions were obtained with several settings of the control dial, the temperature in the test room being maintained in one case at 90° and in another at 110°F.

By experience it has been learned that the cost of operating a refrigerator loaded with food and used under average conditions in a home will often be close to the operating cost determined under test conditions in a room held accurately and constantly at 80°F. Operating costs at 80°F have been approximately determined by calculation and are given in Table II. If there is a considerable "food load," which implies putting into the refrigerator from time to time foods which are warm or at room temperature, the performance of the refrigerator *at a room temperature of 90°* will more closely approximate the operating cost.

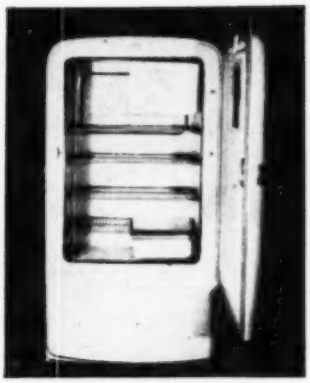
In the ice-making tests, the time to make the regular complement of ice cubes, with the box in a

Table II

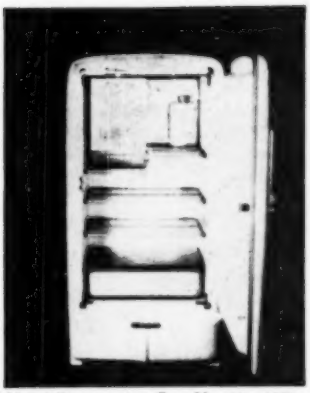
A comparison of monthly operating costs of refrigerators last tested by CR. The electric rate is assumed to be 3-1/2c[1] per kwhr. The figures in column 4a are monthly operating costs per cu. ft. of storage space at 90° room temperature.

1	2	3	4	4a		5	
	Actual Storage Capacity Cu. Ft.	Estimated Monthly Operating Cost at Room Temperatures					
		80°	90°			110°	
				per cu. ft.	% running time		% running time
Westinghouse S-7-49	6.8	$0.57	$0.76	11.2c	16.0	$1.51	36.0
Coldspot Spacemaster 46—4871	7.2	0.64	0.85	11.8c	22.8	1.82	43.2
International Harvester 8H1-49	7.6	0.72	0.96	12.6c	18.8	1.93	42.0
Admiral Master 809	8.0	0.81	1.08	13.5c	23.0	2.31	50.0
Wards DeLuxe 69-758R	7.7	0.78	1.04	13.5c	32.8	2.02	57.0
Kelvinator RS-R	8.6	0.89	1.19	13.8c	31.0	2.22	64.8
Gibson A-819	7.7	0.83	1.11	14.4c	23.0	2.02	47.4
Norge R-849	8.6	0.96	1.28	14.9c	35.4	2.52	65.2
Philco D-793	7.1	1.01	1.34	18.9c	33.5	2.88	80.0
Crosley Shelvador EA-7	6.9	1.25	1.66	24.1c	35.2	2.78	69.7
Frigidaire Cold-Wall Imperial IL-80 (Refrigerator-Freezer Combination)	8.0	1.58	2.11	26.4c	29.3	3.73	43.5
Servel Gas Refrigerator W-700 with natural gas of 1100 Btu per cu. ft., at 75c per 1000 cu. ft.	6.5	0.56	0.75	11.5c	—	0.93	—
with manufactured gas of 535 Btu per cu. ft., at $1.40 per 1000 cu. ft.	—	2.16	2.88	44.3c	—	3.57	—
with bottled gas of 21,400 Btu per lb. at 12c per lb.	—	3.72	6.16	94.8c	—	7.63	—

[1]Approximate operating costs at other rates may be computed by simple proportion. For example, if you pay on the average 2½c (instead of 3½c) per kwhr., the operating cost of the *Westinghouse* becomes 2½ x 57c ÷ 3½ or approximately 40c per month.



Admiral Master, Model 809



Coldspot Spacemaster, Cat. No. 46—4871

International Harvester, Model 8H1-49

room at 110°F, was measured.

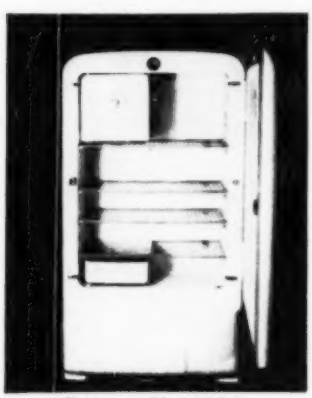
In the listings, only the maximum time for freezing the full complement of ice cubes is given; actually the time to freeze cubes varied according to the location of the trays. In the *Frigidaire*, for example, cubes in the tray on the middle shelf which had a refrigerating coil underneath, were frozen solid in 2 hours, but in the other trays on the top and bottom shelves were only half frozen in that time, and were not completely frozen until 18 hours had elapsed. (Anyone requiring a lot of cubes quickly could change the position of the trays and obtain the maximum quantity of cubes in a much shorter time than 18 hours.)

All of the electric refrigerators started satisfactorily on low voltage (102 volts), and the starting current in all except the *Crosley* was below 15 amperes. The *Crosley* required 16.5 amperes, but as this was for a short time only, it would normally operate satisfactorily on a line fused at 15 amperes.

All of the refrigerators were satisfactorily quiet in operation. Operating costs are shown in Table II, and to save space are not repeated in the listings. Outside dimensions given in the listings do not include hardware. Prices given in the listings are list prices. In a good many cases, nowadays, consumers can expect to obtain somewhat lower prices.

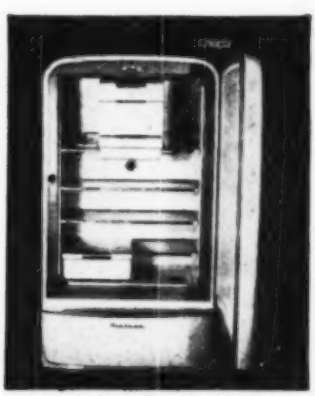
A. Recommended

Admiral Master, Model 809 (Admiral Corp., Chicago 47) $234.95. Total rated capacity, 8.1 cu. ft. (actual, 8.0 cu. ft.). Rated shelf area, 15.1 sq. ft. (actual, 15.7 sq. ft.). Outside dimensions, 59 in. high, 30½ in. wide, 26 in. deep. Compressor, hermetically sealed vertical reciprocating type directly connected to ⅓ hp. motor. Condenser, finned-tube type mounted vertically at rear of base and cooled by natural air circulation. Refrigerant, *Freon 12*. Insulation material was *Balsam Wool*. Frozen food compartment located at top right-hand corner of cabinet had 0.68 cu. ft. storage capacity. Had 4 ice-cube trays to make 56 cubes (6.8 lb.) of ice. Time required to lower temperature from 110°F to a stable temperature of 45°, 2.95 hr. (good). At 110° room temperature, motor ran 50% of the time. In ice-making test, maximum time required to make 6.8 lb. of cubes, 5 hr. or 0.74 hr. per lb. **2**



Kelvinator, Model RS-R

Norge, Model R-849



Wards DeLuxe, Cat. No. 69—758R

Coldspot Spacemaster, Cat. No. 46—4871 (Sears, Roebuck & Co.) $219.95, plus freight. Total rated capacity, 7.3 cu. ft. (actual, 7.2 cu. ft.). Rated shelf area, 13 sq. ft. (actual, 13.2 sq. ft.). Dimensions, 55¼ in. high, 27¾ in. wide, 28½ in. deep. Compressor, sealed type, mounted in back of refrigerator at top. Condenser, finned-tube type mounted vertically in center of back of refrigerator and cooled by natural air circulation. Type of refrigerant, *Freon 12*. Motor, ⅙ horsepower. Insulation, *Fiberglas* ("glass wool"). Frozen food compartment, located at top left-hand side of cabinet, had 0.67 cu. ft. storage capacity. Had 3 ice-cube trays to make 65 cubes (5.75 lb.) of ice. Had non-refrigerated storage drawer. Time required to lower temperature from 110°F to a stable temperature of 45°, 3.3 hr. (good). Cost of operation per cu. ft. per month was second lowest of all refrigerators tested. In ice-making test, maximum time required to make 5.75 lb. of cubes, 3 hr. or 0.52 hr. per lb. ¶Note: Cat. No. 46—4971, rated at 7.1 cu. ft. capacity and listed in Sears' new Fall and Winter Catalog at $194.95, plus freight, appears to be essentially the same. **2**

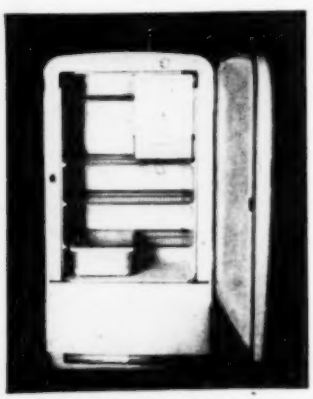
International Harvester, Model 8H1-49 (International Harvester Co., Chicago) $219.75, plus freight. Total rated capacity, 8 cu. ft. (actual, 7.6 cu. ft.). Rated shelf area, 13.3 sq. ft. (actual, 13.0 sq. ft.). Dimensions, 61½ in. high, 31 in. wide, 24½ in. deep. Compressor, sealed type. Condenser, finned-tube type mounted horizontally in base of cabinet and cooled by natural air circulation. Refrigerant, *Freon 12*. Motor, ⅙ hp. Insulation, "spun glass." Frozen food compartment, located at top right-hand corner, storage capacity 1.02 cu. ft. Had 4 aluminum ice-cube trays to make 56 cubes (6.9 lb.) of ice. Time required to lower temperature from 110°F to a stable temperature of 45°, 2.05 hr. (very good). Cost of operation per cu. ft. per month, third lowest of all refrigerators tested. In ice-making test, maximum time required to freeze 6.9 lb. of cubes, 5 hr. or 0.73 hr. per lb. **2**

Kelvinator, Model RS-R (Kelvinator Div. of Nash-Kelvinator Corp., Detroit) $234.95. Total rated capacity, 8.6 cu. ft. (actual, 8.6 cu. ft.). Rated shelf area, 15.8 sq. ft. (actual, 15.9 sq. ft.). Dimensions, 58 in. high, 31¼ in. wide, 25¾ in. deep. Compressor, sealed type. Condenser, plate type located at back of cabinet and cooled by natural air circulation. Refrigerant, *Freon 12*. Motor, ⅙ horsepower. Insulation, *Fiberglas*. Frozen food compartment, located at top left-hand corner of cabinet, had 0.64 cu. ft. storage capacity. Had 4 ice-cube trays to make 64 cubes (6.94 lb.) of ice. Time required to lower temperature from 110°F to a stable temperature of 45°, 3.35 hr. (good). In ice-making test, maximum time required to make 6.94 lb. of cubes, 4 hr. or 0.58 hr. per lb. **2**

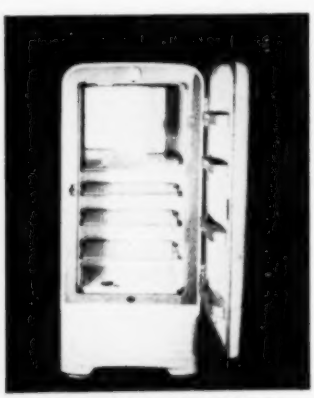
Norge, Model R-849 (Norge Div., Borg-Warner Corp., Detroit 26) $229.95. Total rated capacity, 8.38 cu. ft. (actual, 8.6 cu. ft.). Rated shelf area, 14.21 sq. ft. (actual, 14.4 sq. ft.). Dimensions, 58¾ in. high, 29¾ in. wide, 25¼ in. deep. Compressor, sealed vertical type directly connected to ⅙ hp. motor. Condenser, finned-tube type mounted almost horizontally in base and cooled by natural air circulation. Refrigerant, *Freon 12*. Motor, ⅙ hp. Type of insulation, *Fiberglas*. Frozen food compartment, located at top right-hand corner of cabinet, had 0.83 cu. ft. storage capacity. Had 2 ice-cube trays to make 28 cubes (3.7 lb.) of ice. Time required to lower temperature from 110°F to a stable temperature of 45°, 3 hr. (good). In ice-making test, maximum time required to make 3.7 lb. of cubes, 3 hr. or 0.8 hr. per lb. **2**

Wards DeLuxe, Cat. No. 69—758R (Montgomery Ward & Co., Baltimore) $219.95, plus freight. Total rated capacity, 7.5 cu. ft. (actual, 7.7 cu. ft.). Rated shelf area, 13.8 sq. ft. (actual, 14.6 sq. ft.). Dimensions, 57 in. high, 30½ in. wide, 22 in. deep. Compressor, sealed type. Motor, ¼ hp. Condenser, finned-tube type mounted vertically at rear of base of cabinet and cooled by natural circulation. Refrigerant, *Freon 12*. Insulation, "fiber glass." Frozen food compartment, located at top center of cabinet, had 0.6 cu. ft. of storage capacity. Had 4 ice-cube trays to make 68 cubes (6.3 lb.) of ice. Time required to lower temperature from 110°F to a stable temperature of 45°, 2.8 hr. (very good). In ice-making test, maximum time required for 6.3 lb. of cubes, 6.5 hr. or 1 hr. per lb. ¶Note: Cat. No. 69—759RF, rated at 7.5 cu. ft. capacity and listed in Ward's new Fall and Winter Catalog at $189.95, plus freight, appears to be essentially the same.

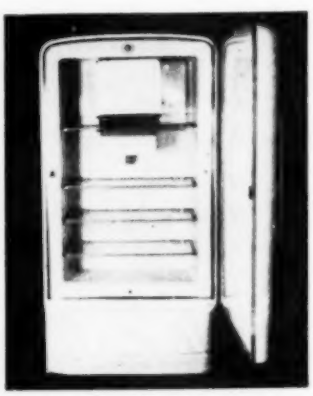
Westinghouse, Model S-7-49 (Westinghouse Electric Corp., Appliance Div., Mansfield, Ohio) $219.95. Total rated



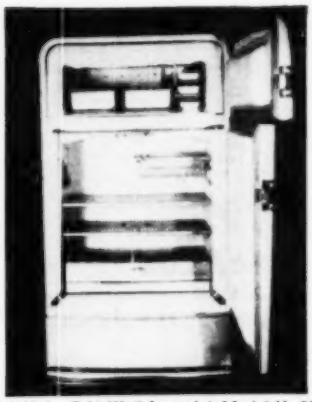
Westinghouse, Model S-7-49



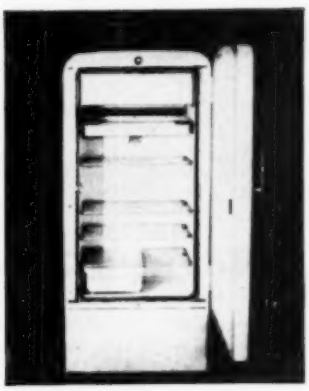
Crosley Shelvador, Model EA-7



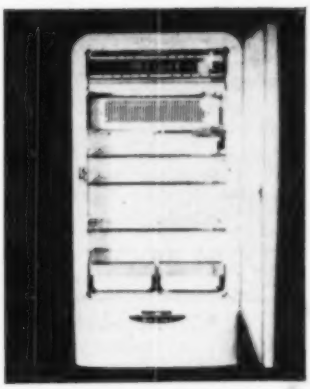
Gibson, Model A-819



Frigidaire Cold-Wall Imperial, Model IL-80



Philco, Model D793



Servel, Model W-700

capacity, 7.04 cu. ft. (actual, 6.8 cu. ft.). Rated shelf area, 12.68 sq. ft. (actual, 12.3 sq. ft.). Dimensions, 54⅝ in. high, 29¼ in. wide, 24¾ in. deep. Compressor, sealed vertical reciprocating type directly connected to 1/6 hp. motor. Condenser, plate type located at back of refrigerator and cooled by natural air circulation. Refrigerant, *Freon 12*. Insulation, *Fiberglas*. Frozen food compartment, located at top right-hand corner, had 0.58 cu. ft. storage capacity. Had 3 ice-cube trays to make 56 cubes (6.6 lb.) of ice. Time required to lower temperature from 110°F to a stable temperature of 45°, 2.6 hr. (very good). Cost of operation, lowest (best) of all refrigerators tested. In ice-making test, maximum time required to freeze 6.6 lb. of cubes, 6 hr. or 0.91 hr. per lb. **2**

B. Intermediate

Crosley Shelvador, Model EA-7 (Crosley Div., Avco Mfg. Corp., Cincinnati 25) $229.95. Total rated capacity, 7 cu. ft. (actual, 6.9 cu. ft.). Rated shelf area, 14.6 sq. ft. (actual, 13.3 sq. ft.). Dimensions, 55 in. high, 24¾ in. wide, 24¼ in. deep. Compressor, sealed type. Condenser, finned-tube type mounted horizontally in base of cabinet and cooled by natural air circulation. Refrigerant, *Freon 12*. Motor, ⅓ hp. Insulation, rock wool and *Fiberglas*. Frozen food compartment, located at top left of cabinet, storage capacity 0.68 cu. ft. Had 2 aluminum ice-cube trays to make 42 cubes (2.94 lb.) of ice. Time required to lower temperature from 110°F to a stable temperature of 45°, 2.6 hr. (very good). Cost of operation, high. In ice-making test, maximum time required to freeze 2.94 lb. of cubes, 3 hr. or 1 hr. per lb. **2**

Gibson, Model A-819 (Gibson Refrigerator Co., Greenville, Mich.) $229.95. Total rated capacity, 8.01 cu. ft. (actual, 7.7 cu. ft.). Rated shelf area, 14.57 sq. ft. (actual, 14.3 sq. ft.). Dimensions, 62 in. high, 31 in. wide, 26¼ in. deep. Compressor, sealed type. Condenser, plate type located at back of cabinet and cooled by natural air circulation. Refrigerant, *Freon 12*. Motor, ⅓ hp. Type of insulation, not stated. Frozen food compartment, located at center of top of cabinet, had 0.67 cu. ft. storage capacity. Equipped with 2 ice-cube trays to make 26 cubes) 2.94 lb.) of ice. Had very desirable automatic overload and low-voltage protection for motor. Time required to lower temperature from 110°F to a stable temperature of 45°, 3.95 hr. In ice-making test, maximum time required to make 2.94 lb. of cubes, 24 hr. or 8.2 hr. per lb. (very slow). **2**

Frigidaire Cold-Wall Imperial, Model IL-80, Refrigerator-Freezer Combination (Frigidaire Div., General Motors Corp., Dayton 1, Ohio) $399.75. Total rated capacity, 8.0 cu. ft. (actual, 8.0 cu. ft.). Rated shelf area, 16.2 sq. ft. (actual, 15.6 sq. ft.). Dimensions, 62 in. high, 32 in. wide, 27¼ in. deep. Compressor, sealed type. Condenser, finned-tube type mounted horizontally in base of cabinet and cooled by natural air circulation. Refrigerant, *Freon 12*. Motor, 7/32 hp. Insulation, *Fiberglas*. Frozen food compartment, full length of top, storage capacity, 1.47 cu. ft. Had 3 ice-cube trays to make 52 cubes (4.5 lb.) of ice. Time required to lower temperature from 110°F to a stable temperature of 45°, 3.80 hr. Cost of operation, highest of all electric refrigerators tested. In ice-making test, maximum time required to make 4.5 lb. of cubes, 18 hr. or 4 hr. per lb. (very slow). Considerable ice formation at upper edge of door frame; this would be especially bad during humid weather. **3**

C. Not Recommended

Philco, Model D-793 (Philco Corp., Philadelphia) $229.50. Total rated capacity, 7.2 cu. ft. (actual, 7.1 cu. ft.). Rated shelf area, 14 sq. ft. (actual, 14.5 sq. ft.). Dimensions, 57 in. high, 25 in. wide, 26 in. deep. Compressor, sealed type. Motor, ⅓ hp. Condenser, plate type located at back of cabinet and cooled by natural air circulation. Refrigerant, *Freon 12*. Insulation, "mineral fiber." Frozen food compartment, full length of top, had 0.77 cu. ft. storage capacity. Had 3 ice-cube trays to make 42 cubes (5.25 lb.) of ice. Time required to lower temperature from 110°F to a stable temperature of 45°, 6.5 hr. (poor). Cost of operation, fairly high. In ice-making test, maximum time required to make 5.25 lb. of cubes, 3 hr. or 0.57 hr. per lb. **2**

Gas-Burning Refrigerator

Servel, Model W-700 (Servel, Inc., Evansville 20, Ind.) $299.50 to $330 depending on locality and kind of warranty. Total rated capacity, 6.5 cu. ft. (actual, 6.5 cu. ft.). Rated shelf area, 13.35 sq. ft. (actual, 13.3 sq.

ft.). Dimensions, 59½ in. high, 28¼ in. wide, 26 in. deep. Can be operated on natural, manufactured, or bottled gas. Refrigerant, ammonia. Continuous absorption principle using a thermostatically controlled gas flame. Insulation, *Fiberglas*. Frozen food compartment, extended full length of top of cabinet, had 0.55 cu. ft. of storage capacity. Had 4 ice-cube trays to make 80 cubes (6.5 lb.) of ice. Time required to lower temperature from 110°F to a temperature of 52° 12 hr. (very poor). Cost of operation using manufactured gas at $1.40 per 1000 cu. ft., about 4 times that of the most economically operated electric refrigerator. At 110°F room temperature, average inside cabinet air temperatures could not be reduced below 52°F (too high for safe storage of food). In ice-making test, maximum time required to make 6.5 lb. of cubes, 24 hr. or 3.7 hr. per lb. **3**

How Not to Mount a Loud-Speaker

AN ARTICLE which came to the attention of CR in an issue of one of the several "popular science" journals gave quite complete instructions for constructing a radio cabinet. The design included sections for a record changer, the radio and amplifier chassis, record storage, and the speaker. Of the approximately 13 cu. ft. of space available, 1.8 cu. ft. were set aside for the chassis, 1.8 cu. ft. for the changer, 8 cu. ft. for record storage, and the least space at all, viz., *1.5 cu. ft.*, for baffling the speaker.

This particular example is not an exceptional case but seems to be representative of the thinking of most of the manufacturers of medium and large console radios and radio-phonograph combinations. (See Observation Post item in CONSUMERS' RESEARCH BULLETIN of October 1948, pages 3 and 4.) No doubt because the public does not know how important it is to have a large area or space to enclose the speaker, manufacturers give much emphasis to the space for record storage, to an extent that puts the speaker at a decided disadvantage.

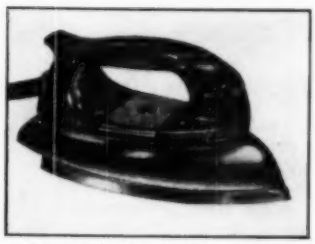
CR would like to point out that when buying a console model radio-phonograph combination, or installing one according to the "Unit System" as recommended in the 1949-1950 *Annual Cumulative Bulletin*, the area made available for speaker baffling is of the greatest importance, if one wants to obtain good reproduction from the components. *There is no such thing as a good speaker except as it is properly related to the baffle or enclosure in which it is mounted.* The most costly speaker, even one in the $100 to $200 class, will give poor performance if not backed up by a proper mounting surface or an enclosure of correct design.

The largest practicable baffle area for the speaker should be the *primary* consideration in allocating space; a poorly baffled speaker is a bottleneck which will render relatively valueless other good and expensive components that may constitute the set; the effect of poor baffling is chiefly to reduce the low tone response, and this loss of low frequencies will often be so great that the speaker output will sound entirely unbalanced, and thin. The ideal baffle is what is known as an "infinite baffle" in which the speaker is set in a wall or in a door which is part of a wall; this construction is often not practicable except in a new home where special provision may have been made by the architect or builder for a correct speaker installation in the living room or library.

Poisonous Chemicals Often Carelessly Used

CR's subscribers are well aware of the potential health hazards that exist in the use of insecticides and other chemicals. A recent report concerning the weed killer 2,4-D emphasizes the point. A small quantity of 2,4-D was carelessly discarded into the sewerage system of a California city. About a week later the drinking water of a neighboring city was made undrinkable because the herbicide had passed through the sewage treatment plant into a drainage canal, and a part had found its way thence into the water wells of the second city. It took many months of elaborate and expensive treatment before the water could be made drinkable again.

Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the necessity of handling all chemical products and poisons with care, especially when they are used near water supplies; tar-contaminated rain water running from or over freshly tarred roads, for example, has often killed the fish in streams over a great distance. All should realize the sensitiveness of stream and lake life and food materials derived from them to minute quantities of poisonous materials washed from the surface of adjacent lands and roads, and use due care to avoid contamination, especially from insect and weed killing dusts and sprays. It is especially important never to permit discarded automobiles and storage batteries to be dumped in depressions or gulleys where the highly poisonous lead compounds may slowly seep into the soil waters or be washed into wells, springs, or streams.



General Electric, Cat. No. 119F23

General Mills Tru-Heat, Model GM 1B

Sunbeam Ironmaster, Model A-4

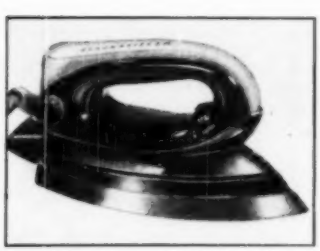
AUTOMATIC IRONS

IN purchasing an electric iron, it is advisable that the housewife should not purchase one that is too heavy; she will find the heavy iron much more tiring to use than an iron of the correct weight. Ironing is accomplished by heat in the presence of water vapor and any pressure above that required to flatten wrinkles and make a good contact between the cloth and the soleplate is unnecessary; it is considered that there is no advantage in a weight above 3 to 3½ lb.

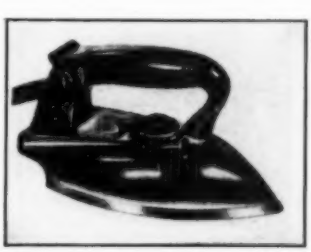
While all of the irons tested by CR were of the automatic thermostatically-controlled type, nonautomatic irons are still being sold. The nonautomatic irons should not be purchased, because their use involves a definite fire hazard. Such irons have frequently caused fires by being left connected to the circuit after the operator had finished her work or had been called away unexpectedly. (They are, of course, unsatisfactory in other ways as well.)

CR's tests comprised measurements of power input, temperature of soleplates at different settings of thermostats, accuracy of thermostats, temperature of parts touched by the hands, areas of soleplates, safety of electrical insulation, a calorimeter test to determine maintenance of effective heat output of the iron under ironing conditions, and a practical use test. So-called scorch-pattern tests were made to determine the uniformity of soleplate temperatures. At the completion of these tests the irons were taken apart to determine the type of heating elements and thermostats, general soundness of construction, adequacy of the internal wiring, etc.

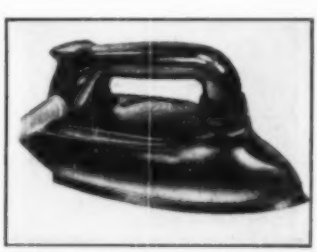
One iron, the *Proctor Never-Lift*, was equipped with a built-in stand or iron rest operated by a button at the top of the handle. Pushing the button raised the soleplate from the ironing table; to iron, it was necessary to press down on the handle, forcing the stand into the soleplate, and to lock it into position by operating a second knob at the rear of the handle. The *General Mills* iron had small projections at the sides to permit laying the iron on its side when not in use. In general, the performance of the irons in the 1949 test was materially better than that of the early post-war models. Only one iron (*Arvin*) failed the standard proof-voltage test, and only that iron and one other, the *Century*, showed leakage current above CR's tolerance; the performance in general from a safety standpoint was thus on the whole very good. Scorch patterns on white blotting paper showed the uniformity of soleplate temperature to be satisfactory in all irons. Nine of the fourteen irons tested had aluminum soleplates; some users, however, consider the older chromium-plated steel or cast iron soleplate as better, because it is less susceptible



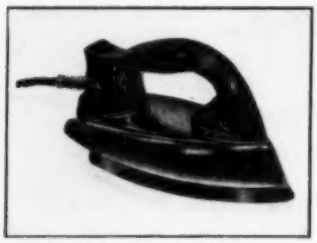
Westinghouse, Model ID-72



American Beauty, Cat. No. 79-AB



Kenmore Synchromatic, No. 6240



Manning Bowman, Cat. No. 2494

Universal Beam-O-Lite, No. EA1203

to scratching. Soleplates varied in area from 23.8 sq. in. (*Proctor*) to 30.6 sq. in. (*Universal* and *Wards*). Weights varied from 2.75 lb. (*Wards*) to 4.75 lb. (*American Beauty*).

The relative effectiveness of an iron for heavy work (which most housewives will want to do at times, or often) may be judged by measuring the difference between the temperature of the soleplate when the iron is "idling" and the temperature when it is supplying heat, as, for example, to the materials being ironed. Laboratory tests were made by the use of a water calorimeter, measuring the temperature reached by the iron when a known amount of heat in Btu was supplied to measured amounts of water as compared with its temperature "idling." The *Proctor*, *Samson*, and *Wards* irons each showed a difference of 100°F, or more, between "idling" and "working" conditions; they therefore were considered relatively poor in regulation.

In the ratings, the figures in parentheses following the watt rating as stated by the manufacturer, are the wattages of the irons as measured by CR. All irons were for alternating current only. The weights given include the cords. Soleplates were of chromium-plated steel or cast iron unless otherwise indicated.

Prices are inclusive of federal excise tax. Ratings are cr49.

A. Recommended

General Electric, Cat. No. 119F23 (General Electric Co., Bridgeport, Conn.) $12.57. Weight, 3.1 lb. Nondetachable cord (right hand) and plug of excellent quality; length of cord, somewhat short. Rated watts, 1000 (1030). Soleplate area, 27.2 sq. in. Soleplate satin-finished aluminum, provided with double "button nooks." Handle equipped with right and left thumb rests. Built-in light indicates when iron reaches the selected temperature. Speed of heating, good; evenness of heating, good. Soleplate temperatures within proper limits at all settings. Temperatures of handle and thermostat control, satisfactorily low. Thermostat somewhat irregular in operation at high heat. Cast-in *Calrod* heating element — considered best type. Heat output very well maintained under load. Parts of good quality. Performance excellent in use test. **3**

General Mills Tru-Heat, Model GM 1B (General Mills, Inc., Minneapolis 13) $12.95. Weight, 4.2 lb. Nondetachable cord (right or left hand) and plug of excellent quality; length of cord, adequate. Rated watts, 1100 (1030). Soleplate area, 28.6 sq. in. Speed of heating, good: evenness of heating, good. Soleplate temperatures on the low side of the permissible range. Temperatures of handle and thermostat control, satisfactory. Operation somewhat noisy as iron tinkled and snapped constantly. Heating unit in pressed steel housing. Heat output under load, very good. Parts of good quality. Performed well in use tests. **3**

Sunbeam Ironmaster, Model A-4 (Sunbeam Corp., 5600 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago 50) $12.95. Weight, 4.1 lb. Nondetachable cord (right hand) and plug of excellent quality; length of cord, somewhat short. Rated watts, 1000 (1035). Soleplate area, 25.4 sq. in. Speed of heating, good; evenness of heating, good. Soleplate temperatures within reasonable limits at all settings except Linen, at which it was slightly high. Temperatures of handle and thermostat control, satisfactory. As received, this iron had a defective thermostat. Slight tinkling sound as iron was heating. Heat output under load, fair. Heating element embedded in channel, cover crimped down. Parts of good quality. Average performance in use tests. **3**

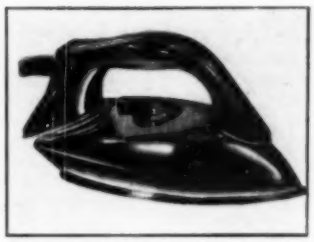
Westinghouse, Model ID-72 (Westinghouse Electric Corp., Mansfield, Ohio) $12.95. Weight, 3.1 lb. Nondetachable cord (right hand) and plug of excellent quality; length of cord, adequate. Rated watts, 1000 (940). Soleplate area, 27.1 sq. in. Soleplate satin-finished aluminum. Speed of heating, fair; evenness of heating,

Arvin Dual-Control, Model 2300

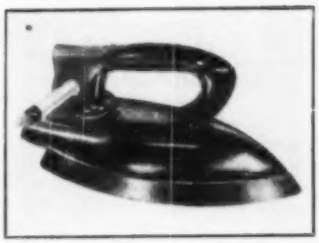
Century Glide-O-Matic, Model 1C-01

Dominion, Cat. No. 1002

Proctor Never-Lift, Model 984



Samson Selective Speed, Model 5000-X



Wards, Model 86—2612

good. Temperature of handle, satisfactory; of thermostat control, slightly too high. Cast-in *Corox* heating unit — considered a preferred type. Heat output under load, good. Parts of good quality. Found satisfactory by all users in use test. **3**

B. Intermediate

American Beauty, Cat. No. 79-AB (American Electrical Heater Co., Detroit 2) $12.95. Weight, 4.8 lb. Non-detachable cord (right hand) of excellent quality; length of cord, adequate. Rated watts, 1000 (1040). Soleplate area, 27.3 sq. in. Thermostat not marked as to temperature, but there is a temperature indicator, called *Thermoscope* by manufacturer, which is calibrated not in degrees but in terms of fabric. Speed of heating, fair; evenness of heating, good. Soleplate temperatures, satisfactory. Temperature of handle, satisfactory; of thermostat control knob, slightly too high. Some ticking noise. Heating element of ribbon wound on mica; welded in. Maintenance of heat output under load, fairly good. Parts of good quality. Performed well in use tests, but all users found the uncalibrated thermostat undesirable; one complained that iron was too heavy. **3**

Kenmore Synchromatic, No. 6240 (Sears, Roebuck & Co.) $10.95. Weight, 3.9 lb. Nondetachable cord (reversible) and plug of excellent quality; length of cord, adequate. Rated watts, 1100 (1090). Soleplate area, 28.4 sq. in. Soleplate satin-finished aluminum. Color-coded temperature indicator. Speed of heating, fair; evenness of heating, good. Temperatures of handle and thermostat control, satisfactory. Heating element embedded in covered channel. Heat output under load, very good. Parts of good quality. Performance in use test, average. **3**

Manning Bowman, Cat. No. 2494 (Manning, Bowman & Co., Meriden, Conn.) $12.95. Weight, 4.6 lb. Non-detachable cord (right or left hand by swivel) and plug of excellent quality; length of cord, adequate. Rated watts, 1000 (1035). Soleplate area, 25.2 sq. in. Speed of heating, slow; evenness of heating, good. Soleplate temperature materially too high at Rayon, Silk, and Cotton settings. Temperature of handle at point near thermostat somewhat high; temperature of thermostat control, satisfactory. Heat output under load, fair. Heating element of the "sandwich" type, with plates bolted on asbestos: considered a relatively undesirable construction. Users made some objection to weight, but more to the fact that cord swivel interfered with standing the iron on the heel rest. **3**

Universal Beam-O-Lite, No. EA1203 (Landers, Frary & Clark, New Britain, Conn.) $12.95. Weight, 3 lb. Nondetachable cord (right hand) and plug of excellent quality; length of cord, somewhat short. Rated watts, 1000 (965). Soleplate area, 30.6 sq. in. Soleplate satin-finished aluminum. Speed of heating, fair; evenness of heating, good. Soleplate temperatures within proper limits at all settings. Has lamp in front of handle (judged of little value). Temperatures of handle and thermostat control both somewhat too high. Cast-in *Calrod* heating unit — considered best type. Heat output under load, fairly good. Parts of good quality. Performance in use tests, average; one user found that the light from the lamp was tiring to her eyes. **3**

C. Not Recommended

Dominion, Cat. No. 1002 (Dominion Electrical Mfg. Co., Inc., Mansfield, Ohio) $7.95. Weight, 3.8 lb. Detachable (reversible left or right) cord of poor quality; length of cord, somewhat short. Rated watts, 1000 (990). Soleplate area, 25.0 sq. in. Soleplate satin-finished aluminum. Speed of heating, slow; evenness of heating, good. Temperature of thermostat control, much too high. Thermostat control got very hot when iron was hot, was very stiff in action when iron was cold. Heating unit of ribbon on mica, bolted in — an undesirable type. Parts otherwise of good quality. Heat output under load, very good. **1**

Wards, Model 86—2612 (Montgomery Ward & Co.) $6.95. Weight, 2.8 lb. Nondetachable cord (right hand) and plug of excellent quality; length of cord, somewhat short. Rated watts, 1000 (970). Soleplate area, 30.6 sq. in. Soleplate satin-finished aluminum. Speed of heating, fair; evenness of heating, good. Temperatures of thumb rest and thermostat control all too high. Thermostat was stiff in operation when iron was hot. Heat output under load, very poor. Cast-in *Calrod* heating unit — considered best type. (Same heating unit and soleplate as used in *Universal* iron.) Parts of good quality. Some users thought the iron too light; thermostat dial, too hot. **1**

Century Glide-O-Matic, Model 1C-01 (Century Precision Works, Inc., 503-507 W. 56 St., New York 19) $9.95. Weight, 3.2 lb. Nondetachable cord (right hand, somewhat short. Rated watts, 1000 (1000). Soleplate area, 26.5 sq. in. Soleplate polished aluminum. Speed of heating, fair; evenness of heating, good. Soleplate temperatures slightly high for Cotton, Wool, and Linen settings, but within reasonable limits. Temperature of thermostat control too high. Heating unit of wire, asbestos, and mica, bolted in — a type considered undesirable. Heat output under load, very good. Users in use test found iron too high, too bulky, thermostat control knob too hot. Leakage current too high. **2**

Samson Selective Speed, Model 5000-N (Samson United Corp., Rochester 10, N.Y.) $9.95. Weight, 4.3 lb. Nondetachable cord (right hand) of excellent quality; length of cord, somewhat short. Rated watts, 1000 (1045). Soleplate area, 24.1 sq. in. Fast, normal, and slow positions for each fabric setting. Speed of heating, slow; evenness of heating, good. Soleplate temperatures low at Rayon and Silk settings. Temperature of thermostat control, too high. Heat output under load, poor. Heating element of the sandwich type, with heavy bolted cover plate — not a preferred type. Users found that in practice the iron was not hot enough for easy ironing. **2**

Arvin Dual-Control, Model 2300 (Noblitt-Sparks Industries, Inc., Columbus, Ind.) $12.95. Weight, 3.4 lb. Nondetachable cord (reversible) of adequate length. Rated watts, 1000 (945). Soleplate area, 25.7 sq. in. Soleplate satin-finished aluminum. Has indicating dial graduated with names of fabrics. Speed of heating, fair; evenness of heating, good. Temperatures of thumb rest and thermostat control, too high. Cast-in *Calrod* heating unit — considered best type. Heat output under load, very good. Failed in both electrical leakage and proof-voltage tests; materials otherwise seemed suitable. Average performance in use tests. **3**

Proctor Never-Lift, Model 984 (Proctor Electric Co., Third St. and Hunting Park Ave., Philadelphia 40) $14.95. Weight, 3.2 lb. Nondetachable cord (right hand) and plug of excellent quality; length of cord, adequate. Rated watts, 1000 (1020). Soleplate area, 23.8 sq. in. Soleplate brushed aluminum; stand is steel. Has "never-lift" stand, button notches, right-hand thumb rest, rayon safety signal. Speed of heating, good. Soleplate temperature slightly high at Linen setting and slightly low at Rayon setting. Temperature of thermostat control somewhat too high. Wide temperature fluctuations, and heat output under load fell greatly. Users stated that lifter tended to catch on clothes being ironed. **3**

Two Products for "Skid-Proofing" Rugs

ONE OF the principal causes of accidents in the home are small rugs that slip out from underfoot. Almost everyone has heard suggestions or home hints for keeping these rugs in place on a polished floor, and there are several commerical products made for the purpose of reducing the slipping tendency by application to the bottom surface of the rug.

Two liquid compounds for this purpose are *Griptex* and *Rug-Seez*. These products may be applied with a sprayer or a brush, according to the directions. In actual use tests, immediately after they were applied, both products made it impossible to skid the rugs.

The *Griptex* held the rug less firmly than the *Rug-Seez*, however, and it was found that the rug to which *Griptex* had been applied would creep in use. After one month, the "non-skid" property of the *Griptex* backing was seriously impaired, and the rug would slip under some conditions of use (though not as readily as before it had been coated). A second application restored the non-skid property, but again this property gradually diminished until, at the end of the two months, the rug would skid almost as easily as before it was coated.

The *Rug-Seez* maintained its non-skid properties throughout the test period. The only impairment noted was that after about five months of use the rug could be moved on the floor by hand. It did not creep, however, nor would it slip when weight was on it.

The *Griptex* was used on a hooked rug, and stopped the fraying of the border and the loss of tufts to which it was subject before the coating was applied. No tests were made to determine whether or not rugs treated with *Rug-Seez* would remain "skid-proof" through several washings, as claimed.

One undesirable property of these materials was their tendency to solidify in the container unless it was very tightly sealed.

The *Rug-Seez* directions suggested that the rug be cleaned with carbon tetrachloride before the coating was renewed. This advice was not accompanied by any warning that fumes of carbon tetrachloride are very poisonous, and that any such cleaning should be done out of doors, or at least in a *very* well ventilated place, and with care to avoid breathing the vapors. A considerable number of people have been seriously injured or have died because they have used carbon tetrachloride in ways which permitted a high concentration of fumes in the air of a room or shop; and such a dangerously high concentration could easily occur in carrying out the directions in question, especially where the user had not been given any warning of the dangerous and insidious nature of poisoning from carbon tetrachloride vapors.

Ratings are cr49.

A. Recommended

Rug-Seez (Chemo-Plastics Co., P.O. Box 245, Hempstead, N. Y.) $1.19 for a pint can; $1.89 a quart.

B. Intermediate

Griptex (Adhesive Products Corp., 1660 Boone Ave., New York 60) $2.29 for a quart can.

OUTBOARD MOTORS — Second Report

Editor's Note: *The preliminary report on nine outboard motors which appeared in Consumers' Research Bulletin, July 1949, included some useful general information concerning outboard motors and listings, with preliminary ratings on the motors which were being tested. In the concluding report now presented we have included a brief resumé of the tests which were made together with a part of the test data so that those prospective purchasers who are interested in some particular characteristics of a motor, such as performance at high speed or low speed or economy of operation, can be aided in making a choice that will most nearly suit their particular need.*

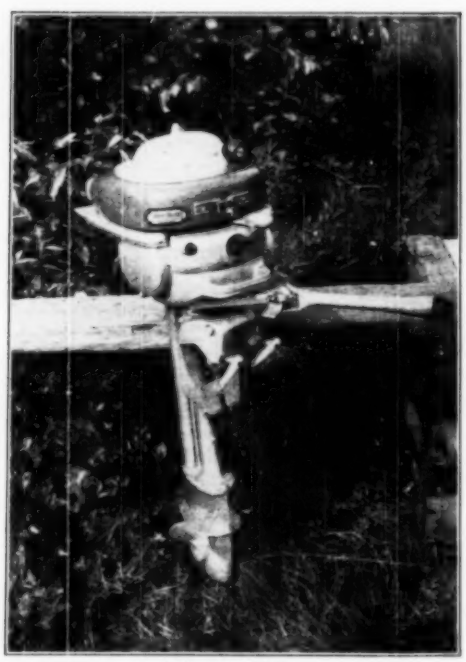
IT is a well-known fact that a break-in period is required with practically any gasoline motor; outboard motors are of course no exception to the rule. For CR's tests, each motor was operated on a test stand for a period of 10 hours at a motor speed adjusted between 1200 and 1500 rpm. After this run-in period, each motor was checked and considered to be in condition for use at full throttle.

After the break-in period the following tests were made:

1. A high-speed test at full throttle over a measured 2-mile course, consisting of a 1-mile down run and a 1-mile return run over the same course. Running times and gas consumption were accurately checked.

2. Medium-speed test at about half-throttle position (1700 rpm., over the same course).

3. A low-speed test with the throttle set at the lowest position at which the motor would operate steadily. (Some motors might have operated at slightly lower throttle settings for short periods, but they would not run reliably at the lower



Evinrude Zephyr

Johnson Sea-Horse, Model TD

Martin, Model 40

Mercury, Model KF-5 Super 5

setting.) The test course for this test was 1/10 of a mile long and in a well-sheltered location. Each motor was operated down and back over this course to a total of 0.6 mile.

4. A "draw-bar pull" test in which the pull was measured by a dynamometer as exerted by each motor when mounted on and operating in conjunction with the test boat.

5. A rain test in an artificial downpour to determine whether the motor under test could be started repeatedly during a heavy rain. All motors with the exception of the *Champion* successfully passed this test. The *Champion* did not have weather shielding, and it is expected that any motor without such shielding would be stopped by heavy rainfall.

In addition to the foregoing tests, several measurements were made or calculated for each motor and some of these results are included either in the listings or table. Among these were usable fuel tank capacity in gallons, weight of motor with full tank of fuel, number of hours of operation to be expected from one tank of fuel at high, medium, or low speeds, and fuel consumption per mile at the three test speeds. The boat used for the tests was a standard flat-bottom 14-ft. rowboat which included a transom of proper height for mounting the test motors.

In the listings, rated gas tank capacity is followed in parentheses by actual usable capacity. The figures relating to bore, stroke, and piston displacement of the engine were not measured but were taken from manufacturers' specifications. Unless otherwise noted, motors were of the 2-cylinder 2-cycle kind. The *Evinrude Zephyr*, the *Champion Standard Single*, and the *Scott-Atwater* did not provide 360° steering. (The *Scott-Atwater* had a propeller-reversing mechanism.) All other motors did.

Ratings are cr49.

A. Recommended

Evinrude Zephyr (Evinrude Motors, Milwaukee) $186. 2-cycle 4-cylinder motor. Bore, 1.5; stroke, 1.39 in. Piston displacement, 9.7 cu. in. Gasoline tank capacity, 0.88 gal. (0.84). Weight of motor with full tank of fuel, 55 lb. Propeller diameter, 7½ in.; pitch, 7½ in. Tilt mechanism considered good. Mounting-clamp handles of swivel hinge kind, comfortable, gave good leverage. Means provided for locking motor to boat or storage rack. Throttle control mounted on steering handle. Gas and spark control tied together in low and medium range; semi-independent in higher ranges. Primer and choke manually operated — easy to flood carburetor. **3**

Johnson Sea-Horse, Model TD (Johnson Motors, Waukegan, Ill.) $173.50. Bore, 1.94 in.; stroke, 1.5 in. Piston displacement, 8.84 cu. in. Gas tank capacity, 0.88 gal. (0.78 gal.). Motor weight, filled, 49.5 lb. Propeller diameter, 8 in.; pitch, 7¼ in. Tilt mechanism, utilizing fixed pin, considered good. Mounting-clamp handles

gave good leverage, were comfortable to use. Means provided for locking motor to boat or storage rack. Gas and spark controls operate together. Vibration, slight. Controls considered excellent. **3**

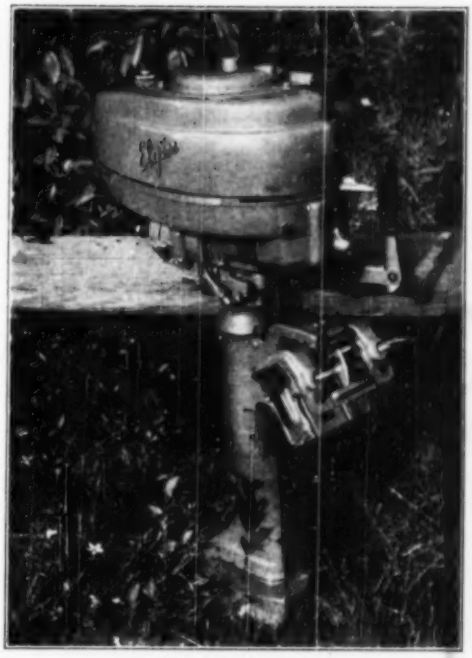
Martin, Model 40 (Martin Motors, Div. of National Pressure Cooker Co., Eau Claire, Wis.) $154. Bore, 1.56 in.; stroke, 1.5 in. Piston displacement, 5.7 cu. in. Gas tank capacity 0.79 gal. (0.76 gal.) Weight of motor with full fuel tank, 40 lb. Propeller diameter, 7½ in.; pitch, 6 in. Tilt mechanism considered excellent. Mounting-clamp handles fairly comfortable to the hand. Gas and spark control operate together. Choke is manually actuated. The light weight of this motor was considered a definite advantage. All around, controls were considered excellent. Vibration very slight. **3**

Mercury, Model KF-5 Super 5 (The Kiekhaefer Corp., Cedarburg, Wis.) $183. Bore, 1.75 in.; stroke, 1.5 in. Piston displacement, 7.2 cu. in. Gas tank capacity, 1.25 gal. (1.03 gal.). Weight of motor with full tank of fuel, 48.5 lb. Propeller diameter, 6¾ in.; pitch, 5 in. Had usual steering mechanism plus provision at rear of motor for steering in reverse operation. Tilt mechanism considered good. Mounting-clamp handles gave fair leverage. Gas and spark controls operate together. Choke is manually actuated. Very little vibration. **3**

Scott-Atwater 1-16, Model No. 497 (Scott-Atwater Mfg. Co., Minneapolis) $179.50. Bore, 1.69 in.; stroke, 1.67. Piston displacement, 7.48 cu. in. Gas tank capacity, 1.0 gal. (0.94 gal.). Propeller diameter, 7½ in.; pitch, 6½ in. Tilt mechanism of fixed-pin type. Clamp handles have good leverage but were uncomfortable to the hand. Gas tank was of a design which overflows with practically no warning when filling, even with the best of care. Gas and spark controls operate together. Choke is turned manually and has automatic return. A shift mechanism was incorporated in this motor, which made it possible to reverse the direction of rotation of the propeller. If the mechanism works out satisfactorily in hard use it will be a real step forward, and is considered definitely helpful in the boat operation in narrow channels and for docking and river operation. Vibration was very slight. Motor control was considered complicated; might possibly require an undue amount of attention. **3**

B. Intermediate

Elgin (Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 6—5872) $133, plus postage. Bore, 2 in.; stroke, 1.7 in. Piston displacement, 10.6 cu. in. Gas tank capacity, 1.38 gal. (1.3 gal.). Weight of motor with full tank of fuel, 55.5 lb. Propeller diameter, 7½ in.; pitch, 7½ in. Mounting-clamp handles uncomfortable to hands; leverage was fair. Provision made for locking motor to boat or storage rack. Provision for carrying, poor. Starter considered good; it is of semi-automatic type; a button on top of motor must be held down to engage the starter with the motor while starter rope is being pulled with the other hand. Throttle linkage considered good. Gas tank



Elgin, Cat. No. 6—5872

Scott-Atwater 1-16, Model No. 497

Champion Standard Single, Model 1-K

is of a design which overflows with practically no warning when filling, even with best of care. Gas and spark controls operate together. Choke is manually actuated. The high speed mixture control was not considered sensitive enough. Very slight vibration. 1

Champion Standard Single, Model 1-K (Champion Motors Co., Minneapolis) $134.70. A single-cylinder motor. Bore, 2.1 in.; stroke, 1.75 in. Piston displacement, 5.84 cu. in. Gas tank capacity, 1.25 gal. (1.15 gal.). Propeller diameter, 8 in.; pitch, 5½ in. Weight of motor with full tank of fuel, 45.5 lb. Tilt mechanism of removable-pin type. Mounting-clamp handles gave good leverage; were not comfortable to the hand. Gas and spark controls operate together. Choke is turned manually and has automatic return. Motor showed noticeable vibration when mounted on test boat as compared to other motors in test. 2

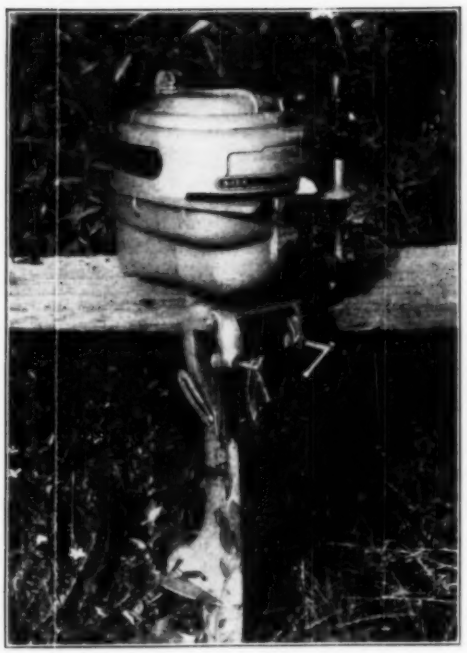
* * *

Rated *B. Intermediate* but considered less satisfactory than the two motors preceding.

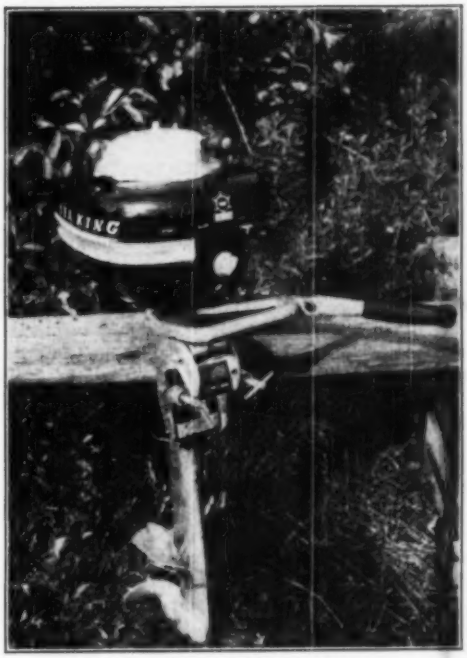
Neptune, Model AA-4 (Muncie Gear Works, Inc., Muncie, Ind.) $138. Can be purchase direct from factory at $109.50. Bore, 1.75 in.; stroke, 1.5 in. Piston displacement, 7.2 cu. in. Gas tank capacity, 0.66 gal. (0.78 gal.). Weight of motor with full tank of fuel, 51.0 lb. Propeller diameter, 6½ in.; pitch, 5¾ in. Tilt mechanism was considered of poor design. Mounting-clamp handles were not comfortable to the hand; had good leverage. Throttle gave no noticeable added response in advancing beyond 2/3 open position.

Table I — Table Showing Some of Results of Tests on Outboard Motors

	Rated hp. at Stated rpm.	High Speed Tests				Low Speed Tests			
		Miles per hr.	M.p.h. per hp.	Fuel per hr. (gal.)	Hr Opn per Tank of Fuel	Miles per hr.	M.p.h. per hp.	Fuel per hr. (gal.)	Hr. Opn. per Tank of Fuel
Champion	4.2 @ 4300	6.1	1.4	0.49	2.4	1.4	.34	.13	9.0
Elgin	6.0 @ 4000	7.6	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.7	.28	.44	3.0
Evinrude	5.4 @ 4000	8.9	1.7	1.0	0.8	1.5	.28	.10	8.5
Johnson	5.0 @ 4000	7.8	1.6	0.75	1.0	1.4	.27	.12	6.7
Martin	4 5 @ 4300	6.2	1.4	0.87	0.88	1.3	.30	.12	6.4
Mercury	5.0 @ 4200	9.6	1.9	1.1	0.94	1.6	.32	.15	7.0
Neptune	5.0 @ 4500	6.0	1.2	0.68	1.1	1.5	.30	.10	7.6
Scott-Atwater	5.0 @ 4200	6.5	1.3	0.92	1.0	1.2	.24	.22	4.3
Sea King	5.0 @ 4000	6.3	1 3	0.58	1.4	2.2	.43	.40	2.0



Neptune, Model AA-4



Sea King, Cat. No. 60—9014R

but spark continued to advance to full throttle position. Gas and spark controls operate together. Manual choke. Excess vibration in use caused a shift of control settings at high speeds. **2**

Sea King (Montgomery Ward's Cat. No. 60—9014R) $119.50, plus postage. Bore, 1.94 in.; stroke, 1.5 in. Piston displacement, 8.84 cu. in. Gas tank capacity, 0.75 gal. (0.82). Weight of motor with full tank of fuel, 54.0 lb. Propeller diameter, 7½ in.; pitch, 7½ in. Mounting-clamp handles gave good leverage but were not comfortable to the hand. Steering handle was comfortable. Tank had good throat but shape of tank was such that it was difficult to prevent overflowing in filling. Gas and spark operate together. High degree of sensitivity on mixture controls made it difficult to set for best speed performance. Vibration, slight. **2**

* * *

The following motors have not been tested by CR but are rated on the basis of the manufacturers' statements that they were essentially the same as designated motors which were tested by CR.

A. Recommended

Corsair (Scott-Atwater Mfg. Co.; distributed by Pure-Oil, Skelly, and Phillips Oil Companies) Essentially the same as *Scott-Atwater* except that certain extras are incorporated in the latter and it sells at a somewhat higher price.

Firestone (Scott-Atwater Mfg. Co.; distributed by Firestone Stores) For comments, see listing of *Corsair*.

B. Intermediate

Hiawatha (Gale Products Co.; Div. Outboard Marine & Mfg. Co., Galesburg, Ill.; distributed by Gamble Stores) Essentially the same as *Sea King*.

Royal (Gale Products Co.; distributed by Atlas Supply Co.) For comment, see listing of *Hiawatha*.

Sea Bee (Gale Products Co.; distributed by Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.) For comment, see listing of *Hiawatha*.

Corrections and Emendations to Consumers' Research Monthly Bulletins

Household Thermometers
Page 13
August '49 Bulletin

Figure 1. By error, the illustration appears upside down, so that the designation of the names of brands at the bottom of the picture is reversed. (As it appears in the BULLETIN, the *Airguide 404A* is the one at the left.)

Off the Editor's Chest

(*Continued from page 2*)

without appearing to be an old curmudgeon, a most benighted person, a prejudiced reactionary with no social vision whatever?

An analysis of the probable cost of socialized medicine to the U. S. taxpayer, difficulties in administering it competently and efficiently on a nation-wide scale, the record of government-controlled care in this and other countries are not within the scope of this editorial, which merely aims to point out to the observing consumer that there is a well-organized and vocal group in this country whose members are working on the conviction that consumers with unrestricted choice in their purchases can by their haphazard and uncontrolled behavior thwart social planners' decisions, made for what *they* consider good and sufficient reasons, to expand or contract particular industries and occupations.

Consumers in the U.S.A. may indeed decide that they prefer to let the federal government take over the problem of collecting a percentage of their income each year for such medical care as the system will provide. They should, however, make their decision after weighing the alleged advantages and disadvantages over the present private system of medical care and not because they have been taken in by as shrewd an advertising and promotional campaign as was ever put on by patent medicine manufacturers in their palmiest days. Indeed, the chief government proponent of socialized medicine in the U. S. has suggested in a speech to the patent medicine trade association that adoption of such a scheme will mean larger sales and greater profits for the manufacturers of proprietary medicines on the ground that, because the scheme will make it possible for more patients to seek medical advice, there will be a great increase in the volume of medicinal specialties sold by the local druggist.

Those who wish a sober, careful analysis of the arguments for a federal plan of compulsory health insurance, the extent of facilities needed to make it work successfully, its costs, and how such systems have worked in other countries compared with present services rendered by private medical insurance plans using current facilities of hospitals and medical care that are now available, and the extent of present care for the "medically indigent" will find an excellent and concise presentation in "A Brief on Compulsory Health Insurance Under Federal Legislation" by Kenneth C. Crain, reprinted from Hospital Management, January 1939, and available from that journal, 100 East Ohio Street, Chicago 11, Ill. The perplexity of the average consumer who wishes to inform himself on the subject can be well understood in the light of the enormous volume of conflicting evidence, which Mr. Crain points out, has been accumulated in the course of attempts of Congress to examine this subject in connection with several bills that have been introduced relating to it. Eight volumes of reports of hearings before the 79th and 80th Congresses, comments Mr. Crain, offer nearly five thousand pages of material to the investigator. It will be an enterprising consumer indeed who will explore the subject thoroughly and exhaustively, but he can make a beginning on his task by reading Mr. Crain's concise analysis.

In CR's long experience of analyzing advertising claims and sales literature, we have made it our practice to read the journals which are edited exclusively for men in some particular trade or industry and which deal quite frankly with trade problems because the magazines rarely if ever are read by consumers to whom the products are sold. Although the task is somewhat dull, it has often been quite rewarding, for frequently the defect of a product or the snare of a sales argument is openly discussed and evaluated. The same technique can be applied to the campaign of selling a program of socialized medicine, so pleasantly named "National Health Insurance." The most revealing comment comes from Evelne M. Burns, Professor of Social Security, New York School of Social Work, Columbia University, writing in The Woman's Press, June 1949:

> I am aware that it has been held that if only the vast mass of Americans would spend their income "more wisely," devoting fewer dollars to movies and tobacco and automobiles and the like, they would be able to afford to buy private insurance against medical expenses. This argument is unconvincing; first, because in our kind of free society I see no way of ensuring that people will spend money "more wisely," at least so long as we *permit* advertising or are *unwilling to check the consumption of certain commodities* deemed "unessential" by levying prohibitive taxes on them or by other methods. It seems to me more reasonable to accept the fact that most people are not wholly wise in spending their private incomes; and, just as we have done in regard to education . . ., that we should tax all incomes sufficiently to provide whatever *our society* regards as the acceptable minimum of health service, leaving people to spend *the rest* of their incomes as wisely or foolishly as they see fit. [Italics ours—CR.]

That seems to state the issue clearly enough. Do U. S. consumers want to give the *power* to "society," or the federal government, or Professor Burns and her "social service" colleagues to decide just how much of their income *must be* sent to the U. S. Treasury for medical care? Can they judge from the sales claims whether the new product will be better than the one they are now using? The decision is in their hands, but it will be in the hands of politicians if consumers do not seriously, and promptly, concern themselves with the problem.

Do You Buy Meat by Government Grade or Packer's Brand?

By SLEETER BULL, PROFESSOR OF MEATS, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

THE inexperienced meat buyer who wants some guidance in making a selection will find federal government grades helpful. At the request of the meat packer, an experienced meat grader who is employed by the federal government carefully looks at the carcasses in the packer's cooler and determines their probable eating quality. He then stamps the grade upon each carcass with a harmless, indelible ink so that the grade shows upon each major retail cut.

At present the grades of beef in order of their quality and also their selling price are *Prime, Choice, Good, Commercial, Utility, Cutters* and *Canners.* The two latter grades usually are not sold in retail markets. Veal grades are *Prime, Choice, Good, Commercial, Utility* and *Cull.* The two lower grades are usually sold as boneless cuts. Lamb grades are the same as veal grades. Pork is not graded by the government at this time.

Practically no *Prime* meat is available in retail markets. The amount produced is small and goes to the high-priced hotels and restaurants. Some *Choice* meat reaches the retailers, but it is too expensive and too fat and "wasty" for most people. Hence, meat eaters of moderate income will gladly settle for the *Good* grade. Those who must sacrifice quality for economy buy the lower grades.

Unfortunately, only a small percentage of the meat is government graded, although it is available in most of the larger towns and cities. Many packers, especially the larger ones, grade their own beef, veal, lamb, cured hams and bacon, and stamp their own grade upon each cut. This is called "packer branding." Each packer uses a different term or brand for each grade. These brands, however, are not descriptive and usually are meaningless to the housewife. The national packers advertise their top brands. Thus, *Star* (Armour) and *Premium* (Swift) are household words. Even the national packers do not advertise their lower brands. Most people have no idea of the grade of *Banner* bacon and *Wilsco* hams.

Some packers brand only the top or the top and second grades, selling the other grades without a brand name. Others brand as many as six or seven grades. To the best of my knowledge, not one has ever compiled a list of packer brands, although they certainly are of a considerable importance to the buyer.

While the following lists are incomplete, they do contain the brands of all the national and many of the regional packers arranged in decreasing order of their quality.

Usually the same brand names are used for veal and lamb as for beef; and the same top brands for sausages, such as frankfurters, wieners, bologna, liverwurst, etc., as for ham and bacon.

The housewife who wants quality meat is reasonably sure of getting it when she buys the first or second brand of a reputable packer. If she wishes to economize, the lower brands usually are just as nutritious and much cheaper.

Packers' Beef Brands

ARMOUR & CO. — *Star, Banner, Crescent*
CUDAHY BROTHERS CO. — *Peacock, Jack Sprat, Ce-Be-Co*
CUDAHY PACKING CO. — *Puritan, Rex, Fancy, Rival, Thrift*
CIRCLE PACKING CO. — *Champion, Blue Ribbon, Red Ribbon, Special*
DUQUOIN PACKING CO. — Government grades except on high *Commercials*, which are branded *Tip Top*
GEO. A. HORMEL & CO. — *Best, Merit, Value, Hormel*
G. H. HAMMOND & CO. — *Rosebud, Famous, Hammond*
HOME PACKING CO. — *Dependable, Wabash, Home*
HUNTER PACKING CO. — *Ace, King, Queen*
HYGRADE FOOD PRODUCTS CO. — *Peerless, Honey Brand, Favorite*
ILLINOIS PACKING CO. — *Fancy, Crown, Merit*
IOWA PACKING CO. — *Old Homestead, Famous, Manor*
JOHN MORRELL & CO. — *Pride, Xtrafine, Famous, Special, Allrite*
KINGAN & CO. — *Reliable, Circle, Peerless, Shamrock*
OSCAR MAYER & CO. — *Yellow Band, Capital, Special*
RATH PACKING CO. — Steers and Heifers: *Blackhawk Delux, Blackhawk, Cornland, Racon Sunvale, Budget;* Cows: *Crest, Harvest, Sycamore, Club, Economy*
ST. LOUIS INDEPENDENT PACKING CO. — *Mayrose, Tidy, Independent*
SCHLUDERBERG-KURDLE CO. — *Esskay Quality, Highland, Beauties, Sun-Up*
STAHL-MEYER, INC. — *Ace, King, Crown*
SWIFT & CO. — *Premium, Select, Arrow*
WILSON & CO. — *Certified, Special, Ideal, Leader, Wilsco*
WIMP PACKING CO. — *Blue Ribbon, Fancy, Handy, Dandy, Economy*

Packers' Ham and Bacon Brands

AGAR PACKING & PROVISION CO.
Hams — *Orelwood*
Slab bacon — *Orelwood*
Sliced bacon — *Orelwood, Circle A, York*
ARMOUR & CO.
Hams — *Star, Banner*
Slab bacon — *Star, Banner*
Sliced bacon — *Star, Banner, Columbia, Dexter* and *Crescent* (½ slices)

CIRCLE PACKING CO.
Hams — *Champion, Log Cabin*
Bacon — *Champion, Log Cabin*
CUDAHY PACKING CO.
Hams — *Puritan, Gold Coin, Rex*
Bacon — *Puritan, Gold Coin, Wicklow, Edgemere, Rival*
CUDAHY BROTHERS CO.
Hams — *Peacock T.P.M.* and *Peacock S.T.M.* (ready to eat), *Jack Sprat*
Bacon — *Peacock, Jack Sprat*
DANAHY PACKING CO.
Hams — *Easter Brand Quality*
Bacon — *Easter Brand, Hotel Style, "247 Brand"*
DEERFOOT FARMS CO.
Hams — *Deerfoot Farms*
Bacon — *Deerfoot Farms*
DUQUOIN PACKING CO.
Hams — *Blue Bell, XX*
Slab bacon — *Blue Bell, Pyramid, English, Du Pac*
Sliced bacon — *Bluebell, Du Pac, Royal*
G. A. HORMEL & CO.
Hams — *Dairy, Delicate* (ready to eat)
Slab bacon — No first grade, *Minnesota, Austin*
Sliced bacon — *Dairy, Minnesota, Budget, Value*
G. H. HAMMOND CO.
Hams — *Rosebud, Famous*
Bacon — *Rosebud, Famous, Dickory, Calumet*
JOHN J. FELIN & CO.
Hams — *I-X-L*
Slab bacon — *Gold Medal*
Sliced bacon — *Gold Medal, Stratfield, Special Sliced*
HOME PACKING CO.
Hams — *Dependable, Wabash, Vigo*
Bacon — *Dependable, Wabash, Vigo*
HUNTER PACKING CO.
Hams — *Hunter*
Bacon — *Hunter, IXL, Thrifty*
HYGRADE FOOD PRODUCTS CO.
Hams — *West Virginia, Honey Brand, Favorite, Holsum*
Bacon — *West Virginia, Honey Brand, Favorite, Holsum*
IOWA PACKING CO.
Hams — *Old Homestead, Manor*
Slab bacon — *Old Homestead, Manor*
Sliced bacon — *Old Homestead, Norwood, Gridiron, Windsor*
JOHN MORRELL & CO.
Hams — *Morrell Pride* and *Morrell E-Z Cut* (ready to eat), *Yorkshire*
Bacon — *Morrell Pride, Yorkshire, Allrite*
KINGAN & CO.
Hams — *Reliable* and *La Perla* (Italian), *Jordan*
Bacon — *Reliable, Peerless, Indiana, Silver Shield, Marion*
MILLER & HART
Hams — *Berkshire*
Bacon — *Berkshire, Moneysworth*
OSCAR MAYER & CO.
Hams — *Yellow Band, Blue Band*
Bacon — *Yellow Band, Blue Band, Red Band* and *Crown Brand*
RATH PACKING CO.
Hams — *Black Hawk Tend'r* and *Black Hawk Tend'r Mild* (ready to eat)
Bacon — *Blackhawk Diamond A, Blackhawk, Ra Corn, Cedar Valley, Kornland Sunvale, Mulberry*
ST. LOUIS INDEPENDENT PACKING CO.
Hams — *Mayrose*
Bacon — *Mayrose*
SCHLUDERBERG-KURDLE CO.
Hams — *Esskay Quality, Highland, Beauties, Sun-Up*
Bacon — *Esskay Quality, Highland, Beauties, Sun-Up*
STAHL-MEYER
Hams — *Ferris, Old Time*
Bacon — *Ferris, Old Time*
SWIFT & CO.
Hams — *Premium, Oriole*
Bacon — *Premium, Oriole, Rasher, Clover*
WILLIAM DAVIES CO.
Hams — *Perfection*
Bacon — *Perfection, Nova*
WILSON & CO.
Hams — *Certified, Wilsco*
Slab bacon — *Certified, Corn King, Laurel*
Sliced bacon — *Certified, Corn King, Wilsco, Laurel, Delicious, Hawkeye, Lakeview, Drexel* (plate)

The circulars "Beef for the Table," "Veal for the Table," "Pork for the Table," "Lamb and Mutton for the Table," which discuss grades, cuts, and cooking of meat, may be obtained free by readers of CONSUMERS' RESEARCH BULLETIN who write to the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, Urbana, Ill.

MEMO to New York Subscribers and "Visiting Firemen":

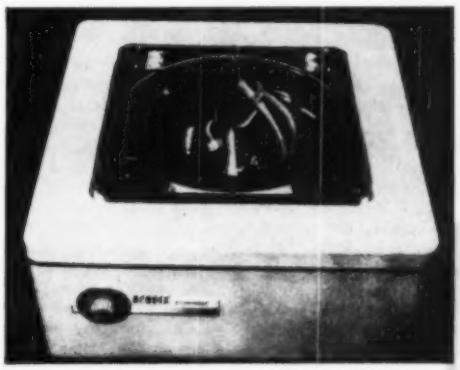
DON'T BE SURPRISED if you see Consumers' Research Bulletin on some New York City newsstands. We have been persuaded to try limited distribution on an experimental basis. Frankly, we are not at all convinced that Consumers' Research Bulletin is what might be called "the newsstand type" of magazine, but we are advised that there are many people who will buy magazines in no other way, and that we ought to give them an opportunity to get acquainted with our service. The experiment begins with this issue. If you have friends in New York City who have expressed a wish to buy a single copy of Consumers' Research Bulletin, but who just haven't gotten around to sending us their 30 cents, tell them to look for it on one of the big newsstands.

WASHING MACHINES

The New Bendix Economat Washer

IN THIS WASHER Bendix has overcome one of the most serious objections to automatic washing machines; namely, marked vibration, which with some makes was so severe as to require bolting of the machines to the floor. Correction of the vibration difficulty has been done by eliminating the spinning method of drying the clothes and using in its place a squeeze extraction process in which a vacuum is produced inside a flexible rubber tub. Atmospheric pressure on the outside collapses the tub, squeezing the water out of the clothes. Another advantage of this method is that clothes do not become tangled, as they frequently do in some of the machines which use the spin method of drying. Old subscribers may recall that several years ago CR reported favorably on a non-automatic washing machine (the *National Watermatic*) which used a variation of the method now employed by Bendix. In the *Watermatic*, the clothes were placed in a flexible rubber drying chamber; water pressure applied to the outside of the bag caused the bag to collapse and squeeze the water from the clothes. Unfortunately, the manufacturer of the *National Watermatic* went out of business and rubber bags are no longer obtainable for replacement. (There is no reason, however, we judge, to assume that this is likely to be a factor with the *Bendix*.)

While the new *Bendix* does a good job of washing and extracting water from the clothes it does have some disadvantages which may, and surely should be corrected in later models. The machine is not fully automatic in that the housewife cannot load her clothes and soap into the tub, turn the machine on and leave it to proceed automatically. It is necessary to turn the dial to either the "Hot" or "Warm" setting and wait for the tub to fill before adding the soap and clothes. The reason for not having the clothes added until the tub has filled with water is probably because unless the clothes are put in with special care, the switch which shuts off the water supply might be actuated by the clothes striking the bag and cut off the flow of water before the tub is filled to the correct level. The *Bendix* in common with several other automatic machines has no provision for using the hot wash water more than once; on this account there is great waste of water, in view of the fact that the first load of clothes is usually only lightly soiled and the hot soapy, relatively clean water must be discarded that has been used for one washing and that could be advantageously used next for washing colored and more heavily soiled garments.



View of *Bendix Economat* with lid removed to show valve discussed in text.

As the majority of domestic hot water systems use a 30-gallon storage tank with pot stove, and will deliver only about 20 gallons at any single withdrawal, the 29 gallons of hot water required by the *Bendix* could not be supplied. Even with a 50-gallon tank (coal fired) it is doubtful if the housewife would be able to do more than one load (8 lb. of clothes) until the heater had again provided a tankful of hot water. This would take about 5 hours for an electric heater, 3 to 6 or more hours for a coal- or oil-fired heater, assuming no use of hot water would be required for other purposes, e.g., baths, washing dishes, etc.

The water for filling the machine enters through a short plastic nozzle located near the top of the rubber tub. With the lid closed, the stream of water is directed through a copper tube to the bottom of a small round metal tank, which is part of the lid assembly, from which it passes to the rubber tub through a valve which is held open by water pressure. (During the extraction period this valve closes automatically to make the rubber tub airtight.)

In CR's tests this valve stuck in the closed position, preventing the water from entering the main tub during the rinse periods; when this occurred the water filled the metal tank and spilled out of the machine on the floor. This also occurred with low water pressure when the valve was free; the pressure was insufficient to hold the valve in the "open" position. (Low water pressure is likely to occur in many homes, particularly in small

towns, or in rural homes with a private pumping system when there is a flow of water to several faucets or faucets and a toilet simultaneously.)

Subscribers would probably be wise not to purchase the *Bendix Economat* machine of the exact design tested by CR, unless adequate pressure can be assured at all times, for if the machine is installed on an upper floor, for example, in an apartment, considerable damage to the house could result from the spillage of several gallons of water on the floor in case of the failure experienced by CR during a period of low water pressure.

C. Not Recommended

Bendix Economat, Model H (Bendix Home Appliances, Inc., South Bend 24, Ind.) $179.95. Agitator type. Cabinet, 24 in. square, 36 in. high. Temperature of water is selected before wash period by manually turning dial to "Hot" or "Warm" or by turning to "Hot" for part of the filling time and "Warm" for remainder. Tub must be filled with water, and soap added before clothes are placed in tub (a disadvantage — see text). From then on operation is automatic. Complete cycle consists of: fill with water, 4 minutes; add soap and clothes, approximately 2 minutes; wash, 10 minutes maximum; neutral period, ½ minute; drain and extract, 3¾ minutes; fill with warm water, 3½ minutes; neutral period, ½ minute; first rinse, 2½ minutes; neutral period, ½ minute; drain and extract, 3¾ minutes; fill with warm water, 3½ minutes; neutral period, ½ minute; rinse, 2½ minutes; neutral period, ½ minute; drain and extract, 6 minutes. Total approximate time, 44 minutes. (Note: This will vary somewhat, depending upon pressure of water supply.) Water is drained from the tub through rubber hose which can be hooked over edge of laundry tub. Hot and cold water lines were rubber hoses fitted with standard threaded connections for attaching to hot and cold water faucets. As the washer showed almost no vibration, it does not require bolting to the floor. Tub was of a flexible rubber composition (*Metexaloy*) guaranteed for 5 years; agitator made of plastic. Maker's capacity rating, 8 lb. of clothes. Required 29 gal. of hot water, 17 gal. of cold water, or a total of 46 gal. per cycle. Energy consumption per cycle, 185 watt-hours. Washing effectiveness, very good. Effectiveness in drying clothes, good. (Water left in clothes, 112% of weight of dry clothes.) Drain pump considerably noisier than pumps of other washers. Control which shuts off water when tub is full, judged somewhat flimsy and likely to get out of adjustment easily. On model tested, valve in lid not of good design and was defective besides (mentioned in text). Except for defects noted, machine has satisfactorily completed 20 cycles, admittedly too few to give any useful opinion of its probable durability. Manufacturer recommends having lubrication of machine checked after 2 years' service and yearly thereafter. Appliance, except tub, warranted for one year against defects in materials and workmanship. (The tub, as already noted, is warranted against defects in material and workmanship for 5 years.) With improvements to reduce consumption of hot water (if that be possible) and redesigning of the valve mechanism and control criticized, this washer would possibly warrant an *A-Recommended* rating (assuming good durability in use). I

The New ABC-O-Matic Washer

THE *ABC-O-Matic* is not an automatic machine, although the advertising certainly gives the consumer the impression that it is, when it states, "Merely put the clothes in . . . Take them out clean . . . That's all!"

Actually, the *ABC-O-Matic* is an improvement on the ordinary non-automatic washing machine. Controls are provided for filling and emptying the tub, for readily changing from washing to wringing, for setting the temperature of the incoming water, and for determining the duration of the washing period. The machine consists of a tub fitted with an agitator or dasher which moves through an eccentric orbit but does not rotate, a small propeller which keeps the water circulating against the motion of the clothes, and two sets of wringer rolls, with safety release; located between the wringers is a floating cylinder in which the clothes are rinsed.

At the end of the washing period, the clothes are fed manually through the first set of wringer rolls; as they emerge, they are given a first spray-rinse by jets of fresh, clean water and pass into the rinsing cylinder where they are submerged in constantly changing water for a second rinse. They then are

ABC-O-Matic, Model 205

given another spray-rinse and automatically pass through the second set of wringers from which they drop into a laundry basket or other container.

B. Intermediate

ABC-O-Matic, Model 205 (Altorfer Bros., Co., Peoria, Ill.) $249.95. Not an automatic washer; might reasonably be called semi-automatic. Uses agitator. Equipped with two sets of power wringers (see text). Cabinet, rectangular in shape. Floor space required, 23 x 30 in. The washer was equipped with casters and was not required to be bolted down for normal operation. Temperature of water for washing, manually adjusted by knob marked "OFF - Hot - Mix - Cold." When tub is filled to water-level line (for a full load), user turns control manually to OFF. For smaller amounts of clothing less water can be used, according to manufacturer's directions. (CR's tests, however, were made only with maximum loads.) Washing period is determined by setting of an automatic timer control which is graduated from 0 to 15 minutes by 1-minute divisions. Rinser control lever has two positions, forward to start the rinser and flow of water, and back to shut it off. Other controls are rinser water-pressure control, and drain control marked "open" and "closed." Maker's capacity rating, 12 lb. of clothes. Required 16 gal. of hot water for washing, 31 gal. of mixed hot and cold water for rinsing (total, 47 gal.). Current drawn under load, 5.7 amperes. Washing effectiveness, below average. Effectiveness in drying clothes, good (water left in clothes with wringer set for heavy pressure, 90% of the weight of dry clothes). Wear on clothes, slight. Pressure to release wringer, small, and well within Underwriters' requirements. Leakage current, negligible. The washer satisfactorily completed an abbreviated endurance test. Mechanical design and construction were judged to be good. Operation was quiet, but there was a large low-frequency vibration which, while not shaking the room, did result in a slow movement of the washer across the floor. Machine was easily cleaned; lubrication was claimed to be sufficient for 5 years. **2**

Stop-Leak Preparations for Automobile Water Jackets and Radiators

Du Pont Motor Mend and Heavy Duty Sealer is a product sold at $1.29 a pint for sealing cracks in automobile cylinder blocks, and water jackets. *Motor Mend* is also usable, according to the manufacturer, as a heavy-duty sealer for bad leaks in radiators and other parts of the cooling system. When analyzed recently, it was found to consist of 84% water, 3.5% soluble starch, 1% synthetic gum, 6% isopropanol, 2% asbestos, and 3.5% wood flour. *Motor Mend* is to be distinguished from *Cooling System Sealer*, also made by DuPont, which is designed primarily as a radiator stop-leak.

The wood flour and asbestos fibers in such a product serve as an effective hole plugger or matrix former. These particles tend to catch across the hole and build up in a criss-cross fashion to make a mat of fiber. The soluble starch and synthetic gum or resin seep through this mat slowly. Then when the radiator or engine block becomes hot, evaporation of the water in the solution seeping through this mat takes place and eventually the concentration of solids in the solution becomes high enough to produce a relatively impervious skin, and the mat or fiber becomes bound or cemented to the metal surrounding the aperture.

Since the radiator cements or stop-leaks must plug up holes to be satisfactory, there always arises the question whether they are objectionable or disadvantageous in the cooling system. If the radiator system is about at the point of failing to function properly, the addition of a mixture containing solid floating material such as wood flour and asbestos fibers could be the straw that breaks the camel's back, by adding to the accumulation of dirt, rust, and other substances that tend to plug up the fine tubes and honeycomb structures of the radiator. (For example, tubes or fins of a radiator may be so damaged, or blocked by dirt, grease, etc., that the original clearance is considerably less than normal and, therefore, the particles in the stop-leak material may tend to bring about quick clogging when such a substance is added to the radiator.)

Manufacturers do have complaints on clogging after stop-leak preparations have been used. It is probable that a stop-leak should be considered by the user as only a temporary expedient, and should not be regarded as a permanent or generally satisfactory means of repairing the cooling system. If possible, the cooling system should be cleaned well before a stop-leak is used, and it should be understood that if the system has not been carefully and thoroughly cleaned, the result may be unfavorable, through plugging or other damage to the cooling system, motor, or body of the car.

Incidentally, most of the products meant for

plugging cracks in cylinder blocks, as *Motor Mend* is, are of a different composition from *Motor Mend*; usually their most important ingredient is sodium silicate, which seeps slowly through the crack in the block; when it is cold, it gels and as the temperature increases, evaporation of the water causes filming, which seals the leak. At still higher temperatures, the silicate is baked into place but leaves a film that is somewhat plastic because of water being in contact with one surface, and thus does not become brittle and crack off.

A product of this general class is typified by *All-State Liquid Iron Mender*, recommended for sealing small cracks in the engine block such as those due to freezing of the water system during severe winter weather. (Some manufacturers have called this type of product a "welding compound" — but that nomenclature has gotten them into trouble with the Federal Trade Commission which holds, correctly in a legal sense, that the process is not in any way akin to actual welding.) The analysis of this Sears-Roebuck brand product indicated the following ingredients: water, 65%; asbestos, 2%; sodium silicate ($Na_2O:3.5SiO_2$), 33%. The composition of *All-State Liquid Iron Mender* is considered typical and is probably satisfactory for the class of product in question.

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RATINGS of MOTION PICTURES

THIS section aims to give critical consumers a digest of opinion from a wide range of motion picture reviews, including the motion picture trade press, leading newspapers and magazines—some 19 different periodicals in all. The motion picture ratings which follow thus do not represent the judgment of a single person, but are based on an analysis of critics' reviews.

The sources of the reviews are:

Box Office, Charm, Chicago Daily Tribune, Cue, Daily News (N.Y.), *The Exhibitor, Harrison's Reports, Motion Picture Herald, National Legion of Decency List, Newsweek, New York Herald Tribune, New York Times, Parents' Magazine, Release of the D.A.R. Preview Committee, Successful Farming, Time, Variety* (weekly), *Weekly Guide to Selected Motion Pictures* (National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, Inc.), and *Unbiased Opinions of Current Motion Pictures* which includes reviews by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the American Legion Auxiliary, National Film Music Council, and others.

The figures preceding the title of the picture indicate the number of critics who have been judged to rate the film A (recommended), B (intermediate), or C (not recommended) on its entertainment values.

Audience suitability is indicated by "A" for adults, "Y" for young people (14-18), and "C" for children, at the end of each line.

Descriptive abbreviations are as follows:

adv—adventure
biog—biography
c—in color (Technicolor, Cinecolor, Trucolor, Magnacolor, Vitacolor, etc.)
car—cartoon
com—comedy
cri—crime and capture of criminals
doc—documentary
dr—drama
fan—fantasy
hist—founded on historical incident
mel—melodrama
mus—musical
mys—mystery
nov—dramatization of a novel
rom—romance
soc—social-problem drama
trav—travelogue
war—dealing with the lives of people in wartime
wes—western

A	B	C		
1	10	6	**Adventure in Baltimore**	*com AY*
—	2	6	**Affairs of a Rogue, The**	*hist-dr A*
—	8	6	**Africa Screams**	*com AYC*
—	4	3	**Against the Wind**	*war-mel A*
—	5	—	**Air Hostess**	*dr AYC*
—	3	1	**Alaska Patrol**	*mel AYC*
—	10	7	**Alias Nick Beal**	*fan A*
—	—	9	**Alimony**	*mus-dr A*
—	7	7	**All Over the Town**	*com AYC*
—	2	3	**Amazon Quest**	*mel A*
—	2	3	**Anna Lucasta**	*dr A*
—	9	8	**Any Number Can Play**	*cri-mel A*
—	4	1	**Arctic Fury**	*mel AYC*
—	2	2	**Arctic Manhunt**	*cri-mel AYC*
—	4	1	**Arson, Inc.**	*cri-mel AY*
3	9	3	**Bad Boy**	*dr AYC*
—	2	5	**Bandit, The**	*mel A*
—	1	2	**Barber of Seville**	*mus-dr A*
3	14	1	**Barkleys of Broadway, The**	*mus-com-c A*
—	6	10	**Beautiful Blonde from Bashful Bend, The**	*mus-wes-c A*
—	6	4	**Big Cat, The**	*mel-c A*
—	1	12	**Big Jack**	*dr A*
—	5	1	**Big Sombrero, The**	*mus-wes-c AYC*
—	8	5	**Big Steal, The**	*mel A*
—	2	1	**Black Magic**	*hist-dr A*
—	3	7	**Blind Goddess, The**	*dr A*
—	3	2	**Blondie's Big Deal**	*com AYC*
—	7	6	**Bomba, The Jungle Boy**	*adv-c AYC*
—	7	8	**Bribe, The**	*cri-mel A*
—	4	12	**Bride of Vengeance**	*hist-dr A*
—	3	5	**Broken Journey**	*mel A*
—	3	3	**Brothers in the Saddle**	*wes A*
—	7	6	**Calamity Jane and Sam Bass**	*wes-c A*
—	8	8	**Canadian Pacific**	*mel-c AY*
—	6	2	**Canterbury Tale, A**	*dr A*
—	—	3	**Caravan**	*adv A*
—	2	14	**Caught**	*dr A*
—	2	2	**Challenge of the Range**	*mus-wes AYC*
1	13	4	**Champion**	*mel A*
—	4	4	**Chips Are Down, The**	*nov A*
—	6	9	**City Across the River**	*cri-mel A*
—	3	6	**Clay Pigeon, The**	*mel A*
—	3	8	**C-Man**	*mel A*
—	7	6	**Colorado Territory**	*wes A*
1	6	1	**Come to the Stable**	*dr AYC*
—	14	3	**Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, A**	*mus-com-c AYC*
—	1	2	**Courtin' Trouble**	*mus-wes AYC*
—	7	4	**Cover Up**	*dr A*
—	2	4	**Crime Doctor's Diary, The**	*mys-mel AY*
—	1	10	**Crooked Way, The**	*cri-mel A*
—	1	7	**Daughter of the Jungle**	*adv AYC*
—	5	—	**Daughter of the West**	*wes-c A*
—	3	8	**Daybreak**	*dr A*
—	4	2	**Death Valley Gunfighter**	*wes AYC*
—	3	3	**Dédée**	*dr A*
—	1	2	**Desert Vigilante**	*wes AYC*
—	9	2	**Devil in the Flesh**	*war-dr A*
—	2	2	**Devil's Daughter**	*dr A*
—	4	3	**Don Quixote**	*dr A*
—	6	—	**Doolins of Oklahoma, The**	*wes A*
4	11	1	**Down to the Sea in Ships**	*mel AY*
—	2	5	**Duke of Chicago**	*mel AY*
—	6	3	**Easy Money**	*com A*
—	13	7	**Edward, My Son**	*dr A*
—	1	3	**El Dorado Pass**	*mus-wes AYC*
—	3	11	**El Paso**	*wes-c A*
—	—	4	**Eternal Husband, The**	*dr A*
1	4	1	**Fallen Idol, The**	*dr A*
—	—	4	**False Paradise**	*wes AYC*
—	5	9	**Fan, The**	*dr A*
—	5	2	**Far Frontier, The**	*mus-wes-c AY*
—	1	3	**Fear No Evil**	*dr A*
—	1	4	**Feathered Serpent, The**	*mys AY*
—	2	5	**Fighting Fools**	*cri-mel AYC*
—	4	1	**Flaming Fury**	*mel AYC*
1	7	8	**Flamingo Road**	*dr A*
—	2	8	**Flaxy Martin**	*dr A*
—	4	3	**Follow Me Quietly**	*cri-mel AY*
—	4	11	**Forbidden Street, The**	*nov A*
—	1	4	**Forgotten Women**	*dr A*
—	7	7	**Fountainhead, The**	*dr A*
—	5	2	**Frontier Investigator**	*wes AYC*
—	—	4	**Frontier Revenge**	*wes AYC*
—	4	2	**Gay Amigo, The**	*wes AYC*
—	7	3	**Girl from Jones Beach, The**	*com A*
1	5	2	**Great Dan Patch, The**	*dr A*
—	6	8	**Great Gatsby, The**	*dr A*
—	3	9	**Great Sinner, The**	*dr A*
1	8	6	**Green Promise, The**	*dr AYC*
1	4	2	**Guaglio**	*war-dr A*
1	7	6	**Guinea Pig, The**	*dr AY*
—	—	4	**Gun Runner**	*mus-wes AYC*
—	7	1	**Hellfire**	*mus-mel-c A*
—	7	2	**Henry the Rainmaker**	*com AYC*
—	3	8	**Her Man Gilbey**	*com A*
—	—	3	**Hidden Danger**	*wes AYC*
—	1	6	**Hideout**	*cri-mel A*
—	3	1	**His Young Wife**	*dr A*
—	2	3	**Hold That Baby**	*com AYC*
3	11	4	**Home of the Brave**	*propaganda-dr A*
—	4	6	**Homicide**	*cri-mel A*
1	8	4	**House of Strangers**	*dr A*

A	B	C		
—	4	1	**I Am With You**	*dr AY*
—	5	1	**I Shot Jesse James**	*mel A*
—	8	6	**Illegal Entry**	*mel A*
—	7	8	**Impact**	*cri-mel A*
1	7	—	**In the Good Old Summertime**	*mus-com-c AYC*
—	2	2	**Iron Crown**	*dr A*
—	2	8	**It Always Rains Sunday**	*dr A*
—	14	2	**It Happens Every Spring**	*com AYC*
—	1	9	**Jigsaw**	*dr A*
—	5	1	**Joe Palooka in The Big Fight**	*mel AY*
—	12	5	**John Loves Mary**	*com A*
—	7	8	**Johnny Allegro**	*cri-mel A*
—	5	1	**Johnny Stool Pigeon**	*cri-mel AY*
—	5	9	**Judge Steps Out, The**	*com A*
—	—	4	**Jungle Goddess**	*dr AYC*
—	5	2	**Kazan**	*mel A*
—	7	5	**Kiss in the Dark, A**	*com A*
1	8	6	**Knock on Any Door**	*cri-mel A*
—	5	7	**Lady Gambles, The**	*dr A*
—	5	—	**Laramie**	*wes AYC*
—	7	3	**Last Bandit, The**	*wes-c A*
—	2	4	**Last Stop, The**	*war-dr A*
—	—	4	**Law of the Barbary Coast**	*mel A*
—	5	1	**Law of the Golden West**	*wes AYC*
—	5	2	**Lawton Story, The**	*dr-c A*
—	5	1	**Leave It to Henry**	*com AYC*
—	2	3	**Life in Bloom**	*biog-c A*
1	5	10	**Life of Riley, The**	*com AYC*
2	6	9	**Little Women**	*dr-c YC*
—	2	6	**Lone Wolf and His Lady, The**	*cri-mel A*
1	11	2	**Look for the Silver Lining**	*mus-com-c AY*
1	9	1	**Lost Boundaries**	*soc-dr AY*
—	3	5	**Lost Tribe, The**	*mel AYC*
—	1	3	**Lovable Cheat, The**	*com A*
—	2	2	**Love Happy**	*mus-com A*
—	—	4	**Love Story**	*dr A*
—	—	3	**Lovers, The**	*dr A*
—	2	11	**Lucky Stiff, The**	*cri-com A*
—	10	5	**Lust for Gold**	*mel-c A*
—	3	7	**Ma and Pa Kettle**	*com AYC*
—	5	5	**Make Believe Ballroom**	*mus-com AYC*
—	6	6	**Man About the House, The**	*mel A*
—	2	1	**Man to Men**	*dr AYC*
1	5	6	**Manhandled**	*mys-mel A*
—	—	3	**Mark of the Lash**	*wes AYC*
—	—	3	**Marked Girls**	*dr A*
—	3	8	**Massacre River**	*mel-c A*
—	1	2	**Master of Bankdam**	*dr A*
—	4	2	**Mighty Joe Young**	*fan A*
—	3	3	**Miss Mink of 1949**	*com A*
—	11	5	**Mother is a Freshman**	*com-c AYC*
1	9	2	**Mr. Belvedere Goes to College**	*com A*
—	2	5	**Mutineers, The**	*mel AYC*
—	3	4	**My Brother Jonathan**	*dr A*
—	2	4	**My Brother's Keeper**	*mel A*
—	6	7	**My Dream is Yours**	*mus-com-c A*
—	1	4	**Nail, The**	*mel A*
—	13	4	**Neptune's Daughter**	*mus-com-c A*
—	5	—	**Night Time in Nevada**	*mus-wes-c AYC*
—	1	10	**Night Unto Night**	*dr A*
—	5	6	**Not Wanted**	*soc-dr A*
—	—	5	**Omoo-Omoo**	*adv A*
—	4	6	**Once Upon a Dream**	*com A*
—	1	7	**One Last Fling**	*com A*
—	4	7	**One Night With You**	*mus-dr AY*
—	6	8	**One Woman's Story**	*dr A*
—	3	2	**Operetta**	*mus-dr AY*
—	3	2	**Outcry**	*war-dr A*
—	2	1	**Outlaw Country**	*wes AYC*
—	4	11	**Outpost in Morocco**	*mel A*
—	1	3	**Palace Scandal**	*dr-c A*
—	6	3	**Place of One's Own, A**	*mys-dr A*
1	4	5	**Prejudice**	*propaganda-dr A*
—	2	3	**Prince of the Plains**	*wes AYC*
—	2	3	**Professor, My Son**	*dr A*
2	14	1	**Quartet**	*dr A*
—	2	3	**Queen of Spades**	*dr A*
—	2	1	**Quick on the Trigger**	*mus-wes AYC*
1	9	2	**Quiet One, The**	*doc-dr A*

A	B	C		
—	—	5	**Rangers Ride, The**	*mus-wes AYC*
—	11	5	**Red Canyon**	*wes-c AYC*
—	2	5	**Red, Hot and Blue**	*mus-com A*
—	7	7	**Red Menace, The**	*propaganda-dr AYC*
1	9	6	**Red Pony, The**	*dr-c A*
2	9	5	**Red Shoes, The**	*mel-c AY*
—	5	4	**Red Stallion in the Rockies**	*dr-c AY*
—	4	2	**Reign of Terror**	*hist-mel A*
—	3	4	**Ride, Ryder, Ride**	*wes-c YC*
—	3	2	**Riders of the Whistling Pines**	*mus-wes AYC*
—	4	—	**Rimfire**	*wes AY*
—	3	—	**Ringside**	*dr A*
—	2	2	**Roll, Thunder, Roll**	*wes-c AYC*
—	5	2	**Rope of Sand**	*mel A*
—	2	7	**Rose of the Yukon**	*mel AYC*
—	7	7	**Roughshod**	*wes A*
—	—	3	**Rozina, The Love Child**	*dr A*
—	3	—	**Rubens**	*doc AY*
—	4	2	**Rustlers**	*mus-wes AYC*
—	1	3	**Rusty Saves a Life**	*dr AYC*
—	9	—	**Sand**	*mel-c AY*
—	7	5	**Saraband**	*hist-dr-c A*
—	6	1	**Scene of the Crime**	*cri-mel A*
2	4	2	**Scott of the Antarctic**	*dr-c AYC*
—	—	3	**Search for Danger**	*mel A*
—	7	1	**Secret Garden**	*dr-c AYC*
—	1	2	**Secret Mission**	*war-mel A*
—	3	3	**Secret of St. Ives, The**	*mel-c A*
1	10	5	**Set-Up, The**	*mel A*
—	4	2	**Shamrock Hill**	*mus-fan AYC*
—	3	5	**Sheriff of Wichita**	*wes AYC*
—	5	5	**Shockproof**	*mel A*
—	—	4	**Silver Trails**	*mus-wes AYC*
—	6	1	**Sky Dragon**	*mys-mel AY*
—	6	5	**Sleeping Car to Trieste**	*cri-mel A*
—	7	6	**Slightly French**	*mus-com-c A*
—	2	1	**Smoky Mountain Melody**	*mus-wes AYC*
—	4	4	**Snowbound**	*dr A*
—	2	10	**Song of India**	*mel AYC*
1	13	2	**Sorrowful Jones**	*com A*
—	9	7	**South of St. Louis**	*wes-c A*
—	7	3	**Special Agent**	*cri-mel AY*
—	3	3	**Stagecoach Kid**	*wes AYC*
—	2	3	**Stallion Canyon**	*wes-c AYC*
—	5	1	**Stampede**	*wes AYC*
—	6	5	**State Department—File 649**	*mel-c A*
—	1	3	**Strange Gamble**	*wes AYC*
4	14	—	**Stratton Story, The**	*dr AYC*
—	9	5	**Streets of Laredo**	*wes-c A*
—	2	4	**Streets of San Francisco**	*cri-mel A*
—	4	3	**Susanna Pass**	*mus-wes-c AYC*
—	1	2	**Symphony of Life**	*mus-dr-c A*
1	10	6	**Take Me Out to the Ball Game**	*mus-com-c AYC*
—	2	2	**Take My Life**	*mys-mel A*
1	8	5	**Take One False Step**	*mys A*
—	4	4	**Tale of the Navajos**	*doc-c AYC*
—	6	6	**Tarzan's Magic Fountain**	*fan AYC*
—	4	4	**Temptation Harbor**	*dr A*
—	2	2	**Thunder in the Pines**	*mel A*
1	4	1	**Tomorrow's a Wonderful Day**	*doc-dr A*
—	3	6	**Too Late for Tears**	*cri-mel A*
—	—	3	**Trail of the Mounties**	*cri-mel AYC*
—	—	3	**Triggerman**	*wes AYC*
—	2	6	**Tucson**	*wes AYC*
2	10	2	**Tulsa**	*mel-c AY*
—	7	3	**Tuna Clipper**	*mel AYC*
—	8	4	**Undercover Man, The**	*cri-mel A*
—	8	2	**Walking Hills, The**	*wes A*
—	3	2	**Wandering Jew, The**	*dr A*
—	3	4	**Weaker Sex, The**	*com A*
1	10	5	**We Were Strangers**	*mel A*
—	1	3	**Wench, The**	*dr A*
—	12	1	**Window, The**	*mys-mel AY*
—	1	3	**Woman in the Hall, The**	*dr A*
—	4	3	**Woman Trouble**	*com A*
—	3	9	**Woman's Secret, A**	*mus-mel A*
—	—	4	**Yank Comes Back, A**	*doc A*
—	4	5	**Younger Brothers, The**	*wes-c A*
1	5	2	**You're My Everything**	*mus-com-c AYC*

The Consumers' Observation Post

(Continued from page 4)

pect that the more successful the candy manufacturers are in their program, the more business the dentists will have!

* * *

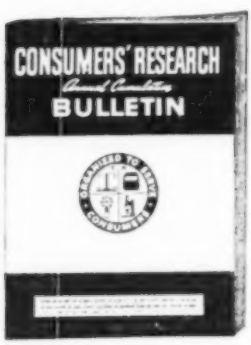
SOMETHING NEW IN ADHESIVES is scheduled to be produced shortly. Called gelsoy, it is derived from soybeans. The substance will stick to almost any surface and, when heated, becomes practically waterproof. It will not only be used for sticking labels onto jars and cork crown seals into metal bottle caps, but, according to the announcement of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, may be used for meringues for pies and in cookie and cake fillings. It may even, predicts the Dept. of Agric., find its way into ice creams, candies, soups, and other food products. The prospect of using this product in food is not so appealing.

* * *

AN ANILINE OR COAL-TAR DYE used to mark diapers was held responsible for the death of several babies in a Florida hospital this past summer. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, 72 cases of poisoning in babies from such diaper markings have been reported. Premature babies appear to be particularly sensitive to the aniline dye. In the body it produces cyanosis, and the chief symptom is a bluish tinge. The AMA Journal advises that such accidents are preventable if the diapers are boiled after they are stamped or marked, and then thoroughly dried before use. The Journal comments that nontoxic dyes, vegetable pigments, and silver nitrate lack the permanence required for marking clothing in large institutions.

* * *

Ppapain from the papaya fruit is sometimes used as a meat tenderizer in hamburger and other ground meats, and as a clarifier in beer and ale. According to Dr. Howard Osgood of Buffalo, it has produced severe allergic symptoms, including rhinitis and asthma, and digestive symptoms in some persons who are sensitive to it.



PLEASE TURN PAGE FOR CONVENIENT ORDER BLANK!

It won't be long now —

Before CR's big 1949-1950 *Annual Cumulative Bulletin* will be off the press. We expect to start mailing the last week of September. For the benefit of those who have not read previous announcements, we would point out that the *Annual Cumulative Bulletin*, sometimes called "the consumer's handbook of buying," summarizes a wide range of CR's previous findings and presents as well much new material that has never before appeared in any CR BULLETIN. Conveniently indexed, it provides a handy reference for looking up a CR listing.

SUBSCRIBERS tell us that the *Annual Cumulative Bulletin* alone often enables them to save more than the price of a yearly subscription. Since it is a confidential issue, it is available only for the use of individual consumers. It is not included in a subscription to Consumers' Research Bulletin monthly, but is sent only on a special order accompanied by remittance.

INTERSTATE SHIPMENT OF FOOD, including animal food, bearing an uncertified color is prohibited by the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, yet the U.S. Department of Agriculture is shipping surplus potatoes colored with methyl violet, an uncertified color, according to the Food Field Reporter. That journal points out that manufacturers of certified colors have complained that a government agency should not be permitted to get away with a violation of federal law.

* * *

BEEF should be twice as effective as pork in preventing pernicious anemia, according to findings of studies made at the University of Wisconsin under C. A. Elvehjem. The superiority of beef is attributed to its B_{12} content; B_{12} is a recently discovered vitamin containing cobalt, which is active in extremely small amounts in treatment of pernicious anemia.

* * *

WHEN IS FRESH BREAD "FRESH"? The answer, "when it is right out of the oven" will eventually be quite erroneous if the chemists have their way. That fresh-from-the-oven odor can be impregnated in the wrapper. Bread softeners and anti-staling chemicals can be added to the dough to give that soft, squeezable effect when the housewife pinches a loaf on the grocery counter to judge its freshness. The manufacturers of the various new chemicals are currently putting up quite a battle in Washington to have the proposed standards of identity for bread and rolls include the use of their products as optional ingredients. We are pleased to report that two bakers' trade associations are protesting against permitting the use of any type of softener in bread, rolls, and buns.

* * *

RECENTLY TESTED:

Gripper Fasteners (Scovill Mfg. Co., Waterbury, Conn.). Snap fasteners available in 5-and-10-cent stores for 25c a card. Each card contained 10 complete fasteners (10 sockets and 10 studs) and a small bag holding pronged rings for fastening the parts to fabrics. These fasteners had an advantage over some other gripper fasteners reported in CR Bulletin, October 1947; no special punch or other tool is required to attach the Gripper Fastener, for the job could be done with a hammer, eraser-tipped pencil, and an ordinary spool. In actual use-trials, the fasteners were easily applied to cotton, rayon, and wool cloth, and undoubtedly most women would find them a useful adjunct to the sewing basket.

Consumers' Research, Inc.
Washington, N. J.

Please enter my order as checked. It is understood that my handling of any CR material which is marked "The analyses of commodities, products, or merchandise appearing in this issue of the Consumers' Research Bulletin are for the sole information of Consumers' Research subscribers" will be in accordance with that direction.

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CR-7-49

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☐ I enclose $1.75 (Canada & foreign, $2.00) for a copy of the 1949-50 Annual Cumulative Bulletin. Since I am a subscriber to Consumers' Research Bulletin (12 issues), I am entitled to the special rate.

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☐ New ☐ Renewal

☐ I enclose $3 (Canada & foreign, $3.50) for one year's subscription to Consumers' Research Bulletin monthly (12 issues).

☐ New ☐ Renewal

☐ I enclose $2.75 (Canada & foreign, $3.00) for a subscription to the 1949-50 Annual Cumulative Bulletin alone.

PHONOGRAPH RECORDS

BY WALTER A. GRUENINGER

Please Note: *In the ratings AA indicates highly recommended; A, recommended; B, intermediate; C, not recommended.* Although nearly all new releases of serious music are heard, space narrows comment, generally, to items which merit high ratings.

Beethoven: *Serenade in D Major for Flute, Violin and Viola* (Op. 25). Wummer, Schneider, Katims. 6 sides, Columbia Set 839. $4.15. Enchanting, early Beethoven well played except for the violinist's tendency to attack savagely. Marvelously recorded.
Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording AA

Reger: *Böcklin* Suite. German Philharmonic Orchestra of Prague under Keilberth. 6 sides, Capitol-Telefunken Set ECL 8007. $5.15. Fine program music based on four paintings by Böcklin. The performers get on with the job most capably. Yet tubby, nasal, thin, limited frequency and dynamic range recording rob the listener of color.
Interpretation AA
Fide.ity of Recording B

Saint Saëns: *Violin Concerto No. 3* & **Ravel:** *Tzigane.* Ruggiero Ricci (violin) with the Lamoureux Orchestra under Bigot. 2 sides, Vox LP Disk 6240. $4.85. Limited range, lack of orchestral transparency, a few rests not in the score (dubbed from 78 rpm.?) and clicking surfaces detract from the meritorious performance.
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording B

Schubert: *Trio.* (Op. 100). Alma Trio. 2 sides, Allegro LP Disk. $4.85. (5 Columbus Circle, N.Y.C.) Top drawer chamber music performed efficiently. Violin sounds strident, cello is too faint, piano is well recorded. Troublesome surface swish. As in the Saint Saëns' disk above, occasional short rests not in the score suggest dubbed recording from 78 rpm. disks. The deleted Busch-Serkin Trio, Victor Set 374, offered a memorable performance smoothly recorded on quiet surfaces.
Interpretation A
Fidelity of Recording B

Strauss: *Tod und Verklärung.* London Philharmonic Orchestra under Krauss. 6 sides, English Decca Set 115. $7.35. Everything's so right about this set. The lurid aspects of the struggle with death and finally the transfiguration are kept well in hand. The recording is magnificent. Stokowski's three sets are left far behind, on all counts.
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

Stravinsky: *Concerto for Two Solo Pianos.*
Appleton and Field (5 sides). Vox Set 634. $4.75.
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A
Vronsky and Babin. Columbia LP Disk ML 4157. $4.85.
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A
Cerebral, percussive, highly rhythmic work for connoisseurs. Both performances have been carefully prepared. Both sound slightly muffled, lack widest range and clarity but are better than acceptable. Vox surfaces are excellent for shellac, nearly as quiet as Columbia's Vinylite. Vox offers as the 6th side a Mozart "Andante and Variations" whereas Columbia's LP disk offers overside "Russian Music for Two Pianos." So far as the Stravinsky goes, it's a tossup.

Vaughan Williams: *Symphony No. 6* (7 sides) & *Fantasia on 'Greensleeves'* (1 side). New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra under Stokowski. Columbia Set 838. $5.20. First recording to reach me of this symphony which was completed in 1947 and premiered in the following year. Widely hailed as a great work. Excellent performance. Recording is somewhat lacking in transparency and gloss.
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Vivaldi: *Concerto Grosso in G Minor* (Op. 3 No. 2). Orchestra of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino under Guarnieri. 4 sides, Capitol-Telefunken Set EBL 8005. $3.94. An enjoyable old work played robustly. Heavily bassed recording, with the solo group sounding too faint. **Interpretation AA**
Fidelity of Recording B

Weber: *Der Freischütz* (abridged). Müller, Seider, Hann, Spletter (singers), Orchestra and Chorus of the Städtisches Opera, Berlin, under Heger. 15 sides, Deutsche Grammophon Set 6. $22.05. Easily one of the most outstanding sets I have heard this year. Sixty-five minutes of admirable music, performance, direction, and recording. Nearly silent surfaces. All of the principal arias are here plus many ensembles and recitatives. No booklet. Although packaged as one album, the record sequence is arranged as for two automatic album sets: sides 1-5 and over, sides 10-12 and over, with one blank side.
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

Folkmusic of Mexico. 10 sides, Library of Congress, Archive of American Folksong Set 19. $9.78. One of 21 albums listed in the latest catalog. Primitive chants and instrumental selections. Recorded between 1944 and 1946 among Mexican Indian tribes — Cora, Seri, Huichol, etc. Valuable to students, educators, and folklorists, particularly, for it offers a rare chance to study cultural heritage. Although the recording is uneven, it is on a generally acceptable level of fidelity. Quiet plastic surfaces. Manufacture of the disks could be improved. On my *Webster* changer one record refused to drop, on another the lead-out grooves failed to trip the changing mechanism and some records slipped when played on top of preceding records. Comprehensive illustrated booklet furnished with this set. Suggestion: if you are interested in folkmusic send 10c to the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., for the "Combined Catalogue of Phonograph Records of Folkmusic of the USA and LA."
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording B

Folkmusic of Venezuela. 10 sides, Library of Congress, Archive of American Folksong Set 15. $9.78. Recorded from 1939 to 1943 in Venezuela. A fascinating collection of music for voice, Jew's harp, mare, carángano, quitiplás, cuatro, maracas, etc. Highly recommended to students. Generally acceptable recording. Quiet plastic surfaces. Changer trouble- encountered with the Mexican set were present here, also. Helpful booklet furnished **Interpretation AA**
Fidelity of Recording B

My Encores. Bidu Sayao (soprano). 8 sides, Columbia Set 833. $4.46. Nine songs from France, Spain, South America, England, U.S.A., that make for delightful listening. Sung exquisitely despite an occasional tendency to flat. The piano tinkles along too far in the background. The $4.85 LP pressing offers these songs recorded no less effectively and without surface noise, plus, overside, Miss Sayao's arty "Folksongs of Brazil."
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

The Return of the Wayfaring Stranger. Burl Ives (folksinger). Columbia LP Disk 6058. $2.85. Assortment of fairly interesting North American and British folksongs.
Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording AA

Mascagni: *Cavelleria Rusticana.* Gigli, Rasa, Simionata, Bechi, Marcucci, Members of the La Scala Orchestra and Chorus under the Composer. 22 sides, RCA Victor Set 1139. $14.75. An operatic masterpiece. The performance, though authentic, lacks distinguished, musicianly singing. As for Gigli—the bloom has gone. Bechi as Alfio is best. Only fair theatrical presence, for voices are too close, though well recorded, and dynamic and tonal range of orchestra is limited.
Interpretation B
Fidelity of Recording B